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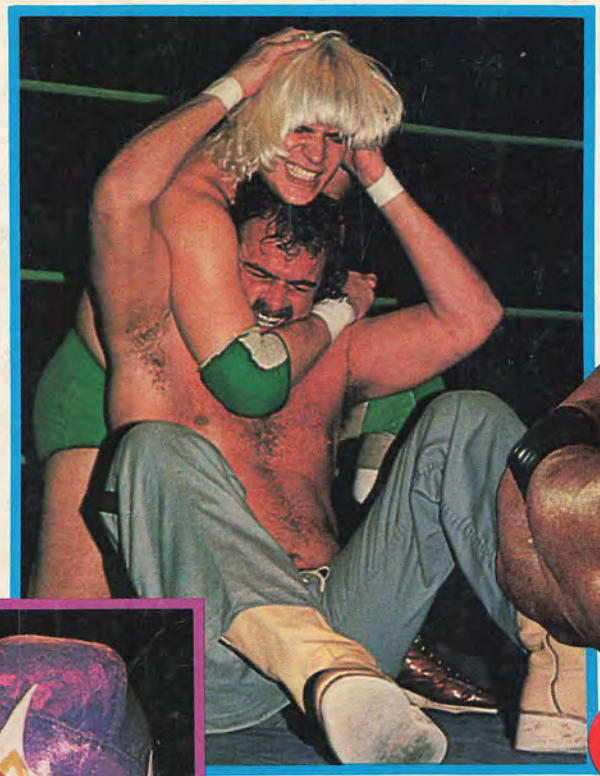

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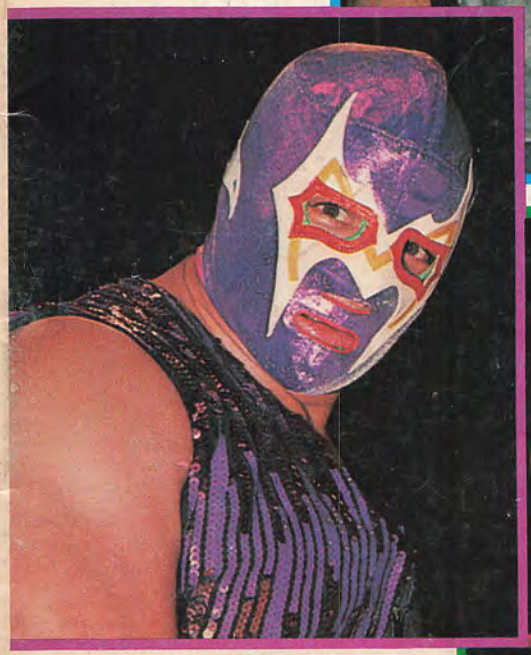

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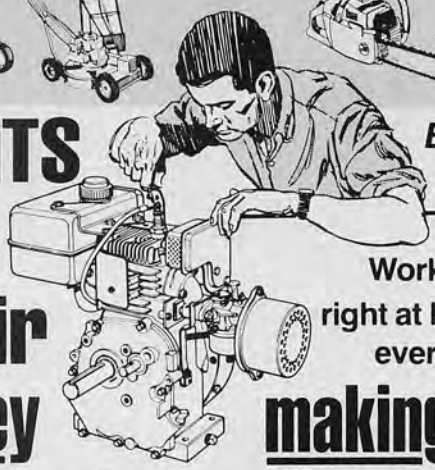

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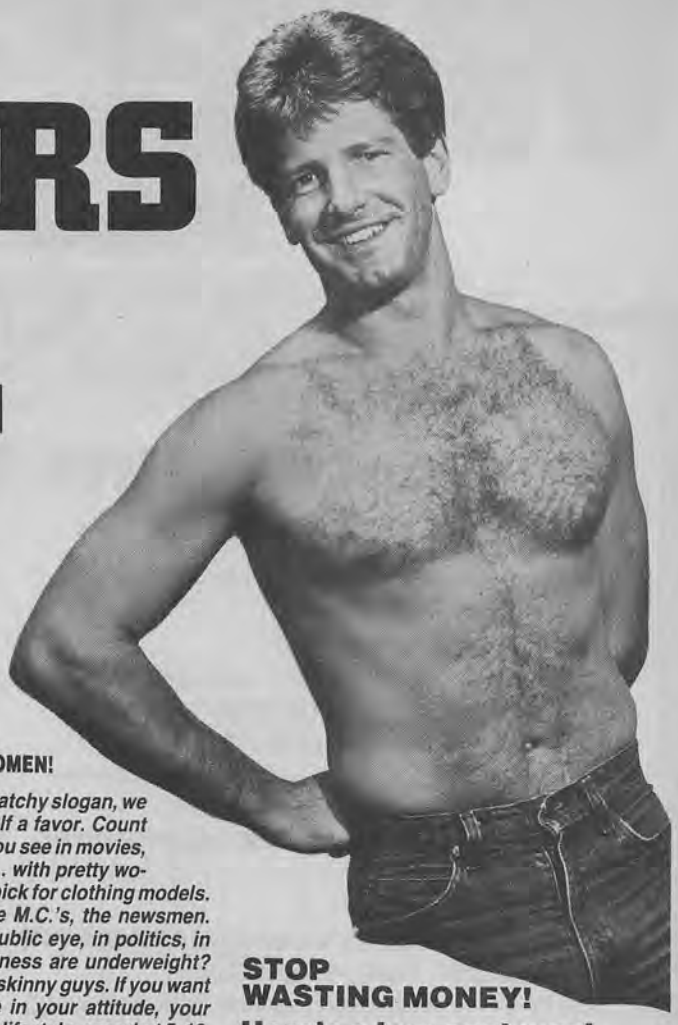

It wasn't easy until now!

That's what so many men are saying after using *ShapeUp*, the marvelous, new compound, especially formulated by nutritionists, sports dietitians and biochemists for the sole purpose of helping men to more healthful, sturdier and better developed bodies.

MACHO MEN HAVE MORE FUN

Women are not excited by men who are skeletons. They like men of form and substance. They like men who look good in their clothes and out. They like men who look like men. If you are one of those who knows this and have been trying in vain to do something about it, this is your lucky day. Your search is ended. Your body is about to embark on a trip to its ideal shape and form. *ShapeUp* is here to shape you up . . . and we mean it sincerely. You are about to gain weight . . . and not just flab, but the right amount in the right places. You'll see!

SKINNY ISN'T ATTRACTIVE

If you don't think so, just watch what turns women's heads on the beach. They get turned on by well-built guys. They're the ones with the prettiest girls. It's a rare fellow who doesn't want to look good in his clothes and is happy with a skinny frame, who has not envied men who weighed a little more, had a better appetite and generally displayed a physical fitness that spoke of health and well-being. True, while doctors and nutrition specialists warn against being fat, very little is said about the equal or greater evils of being underweight. So there's more to it than cosmetic aspects. Skinny is not only unattractive. It is also unhealthful. Gaining weight could mean gaining health for you.

GAIN STAMINA AND SELF-CONFIDENCE TOO.

Skinny men are not great lovers. That's a known fact. Add a few pounds and you'll be amazed how it will improve your love-life. Women know this and are conscious of the fact that skinny men can't go the distance. The race is to the strong, the saying goes. And the fellow who is handsomest doesn't look like a stand-in for the family skeleton. Many a man found that gaining a few more pounds has helped him overcome chronic illness, major or minor. Many a doctor has prescribed gaining weight. But so little is publicized about skinny men. The great amount of publicity given to coronary problems has brought the bulk of weight attention to those men who weigh too much. Men who weigh too little never really get equal time. But their problem is no less serious.

GAIN WEIGHT! GAIN WOMEN!

If you think that's just a catchy slogan, we hope you will do yourself a favor. Count how many skinny men you see in movies, or on TV or anywhere . . . with pretty women. Notice whom they pick for clothing models. See the announcers, the M.C.'s, the newsmen. How many men in the public eye, in politics, in leadership roles in business are underweight? Not even astronauts are skinny guys. If you want to experience a change in your attitude, your business progress, your lifestyle, see what 5, 10, 15 pounds can do for you. See how it adds to your personal esteem, your confidence and, best of all, your well-being. Your day will come . . . and thank your lucky stars, it's within sight with ShapeUp *working for you.*

LOOK BETTER AND FEEL BETTER WHILE YOU GAIN

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Some fellows, who've been trying hard to gain weight, resort to all sorts of methods to do so: professional exercise sessions, costly nutritional regimens, large investments in health foods, time-consuming weight-building programs. Yet, here, at an extremely affordable price, you are offered a product so elementary, so easy-to-take, yet so effective we offer it to you without any greater effort than filling out and mailing a coupon. You don't even have to go to a store for it. And unlike any other method, product, means or procedure, we GUARANTEE *ShapeUp* to the point of total freedom from risk of any kind.

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PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED ANNUAL

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There are all kinds of ways to make money. Good golly, Molly — if anyone knows that, I do! For the past 20+ years I've concentrated on finding, investigating, creating and specifically singling out only the very finest legal and ethical methods for carving out a mass of wealth in a hurry. But believe me, in all those years never have I experienced anything remotely as exciting as this one!

Recently, I came across a fairly new way to make big bux, but after a thorough study I discarded it because it required too much investment of time, money and personal effort. But my study did serve as inspiration to develop yet another fantastic and unusual wallet-fattener — **something that until now has never been done** — yet fully complies with the tough set of standards I'm noted for demanding of *any* potential wealth-producing concept:

- Must be able to be started with **minimum investment**
- Must be possible to **start at home** and not interfere with family life.
- Must be able to be started and **run initially by one man or woman**
- Must require only a **few hours of spare time per week**
- Must have realistic annual profit potential of **$40,000 or more**

Well, this one goes way beyond my usual rigorous test. Get this: This extra-ordinary money-maker® allows you to:

- Start at once — **within 30 seconds** of studying my report
- Invest **not a single cent**
- Accomplish everything **without leaving your home** — heck, you can do it from your favorite easy chair whilst eating pizza or petting the dog (or vicey versey!)
- Have a potential **net profit** (not gross ... **net!**) of $100,000.00 by the end of 90 days — tops. And that's **cash**, not theoretical or paper profits.

Naturally, you're wondering what all this is — but I'm not going to tell you here. No, it's going to cost you ten smackers to find out. But I will tell you what it *isn't* so you'll not be off on some wild goose chase:

- ★ No sex or off-color stuff
- ★ No chain letter, pyramid or multi-level scam
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- ★ No equipment to buy or rent
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- ★ Not anything you have ever seen advertised anywhere

For the past two decades Du Vall has captured the imagination of men and women the world over by providing solid, unique direction for their quest for financial freedom. His firm is headquartered in Michigan with international marketing offices in Hong Kong (known as DAX International, John W. Lane, President). In addition to producing some three dozen publications on money-making/self-improvement themes, DuVall is also the creator of the popular Derek Dax adventure/mystery/romance series and the author of the political intrigue novel, "The Big Dream" (published by Lyle Stuart, Inc., New York). Unlike most, he has never had to resort to outlandish money-back guarantees to attract only the finest DAX-DOERS worldwide and no such policy is expressed or implied.

His writings have been used in numerous style and content workshops and accredited courses at such institutions as California State University, UCLA, Fordham, University of Illinois and Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

WHO CAN DO IT

Anyone with even a smidgen of ambition.

WHAT IS REQUIRED

Other than my step-by-step detailed report ... nothing. I have thought long and hard about it; A person virtually without a shirt on their back or a pot to plant petunias in could do it. You will of course, have to put my plan into motion — but that's both fun and easy and totally accomplished from the comfort of your own home. (By the way, no one will be coming to your home, either.)

Finally, let me make this clear: Once you have my report, **that is all you need to get going!** I have nothing else to sell you for this deal. Your purchase of this extraordinary report is NOT a "foot in the door" to get you to buy some extra or expensive "course" or whatever ... this is all you need from me!

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We have over 10,000 'tasty testimonials' from housewives, doctors, lawyers, layed-off factory workers—all sorts of good people. These excerpts sum up their feelings:

"Thanks a million times . . . you have proved 100% accurate in what you said in your advertisement. Doing this work is so easy! I sometimes work while in bed. Should you come up with another ingenious thing, please let me know.
Mohidin Mohammed, Sweden

"We are so impressed . . . have our 13 and 16 year olds involved . . . thanks for giving our family new hope."
MacClear Family, Indiana

". . . man in economically depressed area left $35,000 secure job to put this method to work . . . made $120,000. First man I've ever met who really made money on idea purchased through mail." David Roman, Editor, ROMAN REPORTS, Ohio

WHAT TO DO NOW

You've got two choices:

1. Put this ad aside, wait 90 days or so and perhaps lose your chance at $100,000.
2. Do the only sensible thing. Send me the ten bux and get started on wearing in that path to the bank.

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P.S. One more thing (say, this Du Vall is a windy so and so, isn't he!). There are lots of people right now in bad financial straits. I hope you're not one of them, but if you are, having read this ad you now have absolutely no excuse for being broke, because as the saying goes, "This is it!" This could truly be the once-and-for-all solution to any money miseries you have. I guess you'll have to take my word for it until you receive these fabulous reports — but if it eases your mind any, over 1,000,000 men and women worldwide have been, over the years **repeat buyers** of my books, courses, reports, cassette tape programs and newsletters. There must be a reason . . .

— Dean F. V. Du Vall

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INTRODUCTION

HERE WE ARE again, with another exciting issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Annual.* We're proud and honored to present some of the greatest stories ever published in the world's largest-selling wrestling magazine, *Pro Wrestling Illustrated.*

This issue, the stories we've reprinted from past issues of *PWI* have been chosen for special reasons by the various editors of the magazine.

Dan Shocket, Assistant Editor: *I'll never forget the day that Tony Atlas wrestled Baron Von Raschke and almost went over the edge. For a time, I thought Atlas had finally come to his senses and taken the properly aggressive course toward victory. But unfortunately he later reverted back to his pusillanimous self.*

Shocket, a staunch supporter of rulebreaking wrestlers, was referring to the story **Tony Atlas: "I Wanted To Kill Baron Von Raschke!"** printed in our December 1980 issue. Indeed, it was a remarkable day for Atlas, one that was both frightening and enlightening for "Mr. USA."

Baron Von Raschke made the mistake of angering "Mr. USA," Tony Atlas. The gory details can be found on page 12.

Bill Apter, Senior Editor: *I can't begin to count how many of Bob Backlund's WWF title defenses I photographed between 1978 and 1983. But one of the most memorable I had ever seen was when Backlund wrestled Jesse Ventura.*

That match was memorable for Backlund as well. The May 1982 edition of *PWI* reported on **Bob Backlund's Nightmare Match Against Jesse Ventura.** It was a match that nearly brought Backlund's WWF heavyweight title reign to an ugly end.

Richard Countis, Assistant Editor: *When Ivan Koloff had the Mid-Atlantic belt around his waist, there was an attitude in that area of the country that was unbelievable. Koloff's influence was apparant everywhere. And it looked like he would hold on to that title forever.*

Ivan Koloff's Death Grip On The Mid-Atlantic Title was examined in the January 1982 issue of *PWI.* Today, one can speculate that Koloff loosened his grip on the Mid-Atlantic title only to gain an even firmer grip on the title he holds today: one half of the NWA World tag team title!

Joseph Bua, Assistant Editor: *Back before I started working for* Pro Wrestling Illustrated, *I always wondered why Wahoo McDaniel never got more exposure in the magazines. After all, he was always such a dominant force in professional wrestling, it didn't make sense to me.*

Bua's question was answered in the very first issue of *PWI,* cover dated September 1979. **Why Wahoo McDaniel Doesn't Get The Press He Deserves** not only answers that question, but helps provide an answer by offering McDaniel some of the recognition he long deserved.

A misunderstanding between Wahoo McDaniel and our magazine resulted in a lack of press coverage for the Indian star.

Stu Saks, Managing Editor: *One of the most purely tactical matches I ever saw was a contest between Pat Patterson and Ken Patera. The match was a remarkable cat-and-mouse game between two men, and I could never tell at any moment in the match who had the advantage.*

The match was a perfect analogy to their situation out of the ring. Each man felt anger and hatred for the other, and each had something to prove to the other. And like their match, one could never tell which man had the upper hand at any given time. **Patera vs. Patterson: Who's Chasing Whom**, from our May 1981 issue, examined that situation in depth.

Jeff Ryan, Assistant Editor: *Mil Mascaras is one of a kind. And when he thinks about altering his purely scientific style and becoming a rulebreaker in order to win a major title—well, then it's time for the fans to speak out.*

And they did. By the thousands. In our April 1983 issue we printed

(Continued on page 50)

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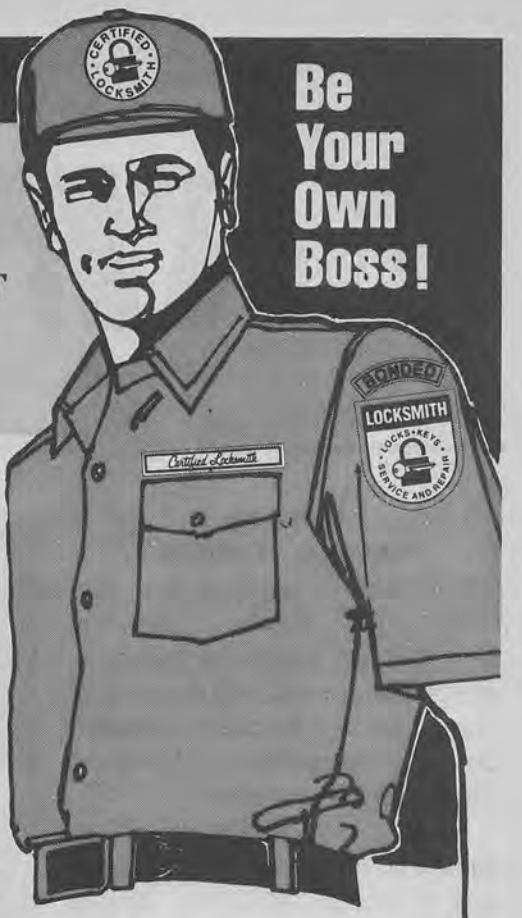
Get into this booming high-profit business that's Easy to learn—Easy to do—Easy on You!



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Hundreds of Foley-Belsaw trained men have succeeded in this fascinating and highly profitable field . . .

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"I always wanted to be in business for myself and now I am . . . thanks to Foley-Belsaw Institute.

David Fairbrother—Dave's Locksmith Service Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53209

"I opened my own business, spare time, seven months after I enrolled and made a profit of $329 for the first week."
B. A. Deberry Littleton, Colorado

"No more hard, nasty work for me. Now I have my own business and with hardly any effort I average around $50 a day. Thanks for my new start in life."
Sam Walker Prichard, Alabama

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RINGSIDE Update

With Bill Apter

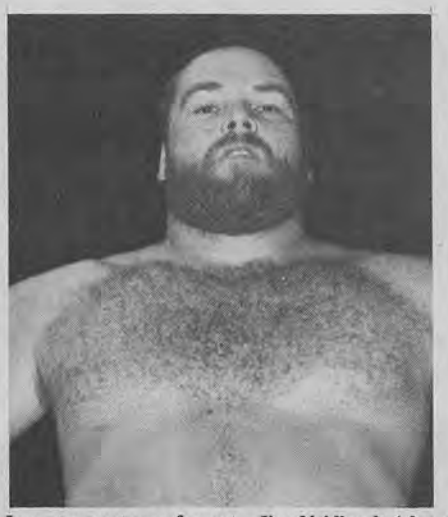
UPDATE:
TAMPA, FLORIDA

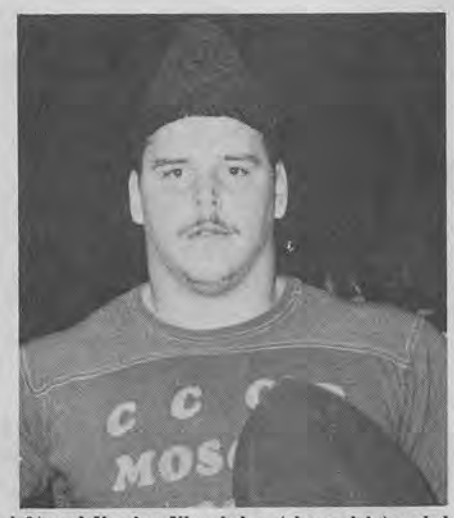
Krusher Khrushchev and Jim "The Anvil" Neidhardt are the new U.S. tag team champions after defeating Hector Guerrero and Coco Samoa. The bout took place on a *Championship Wrestling From Florida* broadcast.

Hector and brother Chavo Guerrero had been the champions of record, but Chavo, injured in a recent match against Ken Timbs and Dusty Woods, was not present for the scheduled mandatory television title defense against The Red Raiders. Faced with the prospect of defending the belts or relinquishing them, Hector was given the opportunity to pick a new tag team partner, and he chose his old friend Samoa.

But the scheduled match never took place. Khrushchev and Neidhardt burst from the dressing room and attacked the Raiders at ringside, rendering the masked duo incapable of wrestling. Neidhardt and Khrushchev then walked over to announcer Gordon Solie's desk to complain about the lack of tag team competition in Florida and to issue a challenge to Hector Guerrero. Guerrero and Samoa called the challengers to the ring and the unscheduled title defense began.

Khrushchev and Neidhardt dominated the action in the match with their surprisingly adept teamwork. They also held a huge weight advantage over Guerrero and Samoa. Ringsiders noted that Guerrero and Samoa seemed to lack the teamwork necessary to be tag team champions.





In a strange turn of events, Jim Neidhardt (above left) and Krusher Khrushchev (above right) ended up with the U.S. tag team belts after defeating the team of Chavo Guerrero and Coco Samoa.

In the waning moments of the bout, Neidhardt threw Samoa out of the ring, and then followed him out to smash his head into the ringpost. Guerrero, in a valiant attempt to save his partner, jumped over the ropes and onto Neidhardt. The move was careless, however, as both men crashed to the arena floor. The bulkier Neidhardt absorbed the shock better, got up first, and threw Guerrero back into the ring.

Then Khurshchev and Neidhardt double-whipped Guerrero into the ropes, and soon the Mexican star was trapped in Khrushchev's painful finishing maneuver, the backbreaker. Guerrero quickly submitted, but the new champions weren't finished with him. Neidhardt then climbed the turnbuckles and came off with a vicious clothesline that knocked the vulnerable victim off Khrushchev's shoulders and onto the canvas.

In other Florida news: Florida champion Jesse Barr was fined by the NWA after striking broadcaster Buddy Colt and physically harassing Gordon Solie during a September broadcast . . . The Saint, reportedly a native of Cuba, has been accompanying Neidhardt and the Russian sympathizer Khrushchev to the ring. The relationship between The Saint and the tag champs is unclear at this time . . . Kevin Sullivan's war with Superstar Billy Graham continues to escalate. Graham recently wrestled both Sullivan and Sir Oliver Humperdink in a steel cage match.

(Continued on page 10)

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Ringside Update

(Continued from page 8)

UPDATE: GREENSBORO, NC

"Starrcade," the annual Thanksgiving night wrestling spectacular presented by Mid-Atlantic promoter Jim Crockett at the Greensboro Coliseum, has become so popular that "rallies" were held in three different cities. Memphis, New York City, and, of course, Greensboro all hosted a Starrcade Rally.

Jimmy Valiant boogie-woogied with the fans in Memphis, one of the three cities holding rallies for the Thanksgiving "Starrcade '85" show.

Hosting the New York rally, which took place at the world-famous nightclub Studio 54, were *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* editors Bill Apter and Craig Peters. The "Boogie Woogie Man," Jimmy Valiant, was on hand in Memphis as master of ceremonies. The three rallies were covered via closed-circuit hookup, so fans in each city could see what was happening in the other two. The major news of the night: The announcement of the Starrcade main event, an NWA World title match between champion Ric Flair and "The American Dream" Dusty Rhodes. The purse for that bout is guaranteed at $1 million, which is a record for professional wrestling.

"The fans joined in a celebration of the sport of professional wrestling," said Crockett after the event. "Just from the reaction of the crowd, I know that this has been one of the most successful events I have ever presented."

In other Mid-Atlantic news: Current United States heavyweight champion Wahoo McDaniel has issued a challenge to the winner of the Flair-Rhodes main event . . . During the rally, fans watched as television cameras on location at a Charlotte, North Carolina, bank pictured the $1 million that will go to the Flair-Rhodes victor.

UPDATE: BALTIMORE, MD

Are Paul Ellering and his AWA tag team champions The Road Warriors afraid of Tommy Rich, Ole Anderson, and "The American Dream" Dusty Rhodes? After a melee in Baltimore that included all six men, Rich, Anderson, and Rhodes challenged the Warriors and Ellering to a six-man match. But thus far, the manager has refused to sign a contract for him, Animal, and Hawk to wrestle that threesome.

The situation began during Rich's match with Masao Ito at the Baltimore Civic Center. Ellering, who acts as Ito's adviser during his appearances on the East Coast, broke up a possible Rich pin on Ito by placing the Asian star's leg on the ropes.

Rich attacked Ellering in retaliation, and then The Road Warriors rushed to the ring to attack Rich. "Make him pay, make him pay," Ellering chanted as Animal and Hawk bloodied Rich.

Anderson and Rhodes, who were scheduled to wrestle the Warriors in the next match, then entered the fray. Referee David Hebner managed to get Rich and Ellering out of the ring.

Having thrown Ole Anderson out of the ring, Road Warriors Animal and Hawk (soon to be joined by Precious Paul Ellering) double-team Dusty Rhodes.

During the tag team match, the Warriors threw Anderson out of the ring and with Ellering, triple-teamed Rhodes. Rich then came back to the ring with a bandage wrapped around his head, revived Anderson, and the two helped Rhodes clear the ring of Ellering and his men.

Said Rhodes, later: "Our challenge to those three dogs stands. Tommy, Ole, and I will follow them throughout the NWA and AWA until they respond."

In other Baltimore news: Ronnie Garvin is the new National heavyweight champion. He defeated Ted DiBiase for the belt on the same card . . . Also that night, Hollywood Blonds Ted Oates and Rip Rogers defeated Brad Armstrong and Tim Horner to defend their National tag team titles . . . In the main event in Baltimore, NWA World champion Ric Flair successfully defended the title against seven-time champion Harley Race inside the steel cage.□

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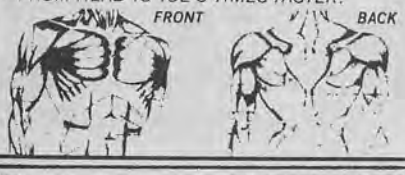

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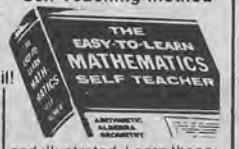

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Perhaps Baron Von Raschke thought Tony Atlas was like all the rest, fearful of standing up to his foul and disgusting mouth. Recently Von Raschke learned otherwise. Atlas won't take any guff from anyone. Even if it means killing Baron Von Raschke

PHOTOS BY MAGGIE ADKINS

Tony Atlas:
"I WANTED TO KILL BARON VON RASCHKE!"

TONY ATLAS IS normally a placid, polite young man. Violent threats and barbed insults simply aren't his style. To provoke Atlas to rage means the instigator committed some heinous crime aimed at Atlas' very soul.

Baron Von Raschke found Atlas' sensitive area. And Von Raschke may not live to regret it.

"I wanted to kill Baron Von Raschke," thundered Atlas. He stormed around the dressing room, kicking over chairs and flinging towels onto the floor. He could barely contain his rage. Atlas flung himself on a rickety chair and glowered at the wall.

"Why he gotta act like that, huh? Why he gotta be like that and say I'm an inferior person and I ain't good enough to get into the ring with him? Why he gotta do that? Just ain't right, ain't right, that's all, and I don't have to take it," snarled Atlas, twisting his enormous hands.

At first, Atlas refused to discuss Von Raschke's remarks. When questioned, Atlas' eyes bulged and his huge chest heaved with distress. Long pained silence followed reporters' questions. Several times, Atlas started to explain, only to stumble on his words.

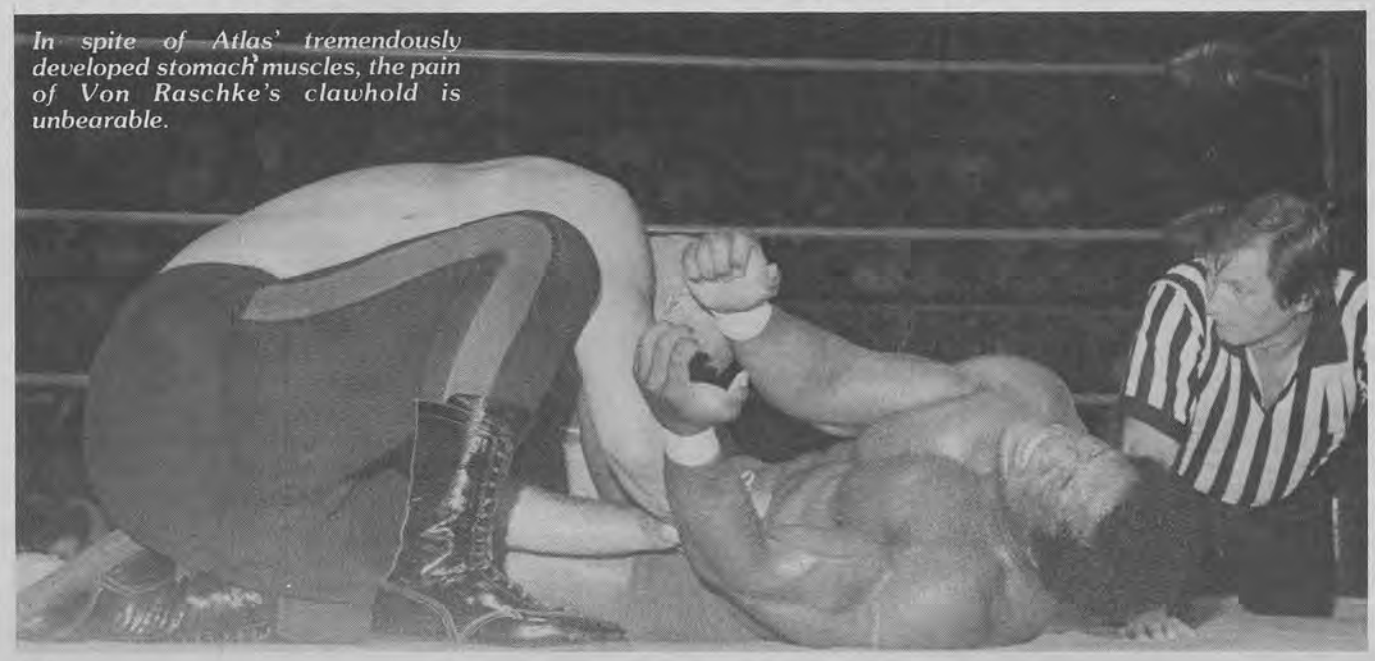
"It's, I just, you know, it really hurts to talk about, I, I get so darn mad, I wanna crush and kill, you know, I, I . . ." Atlas tore at a towel. "I, just gimme a few minutes, just a few seconds, okay?"

Atlas disappeared into the shower. For nearly 20 minutes, roaring water combined with his tormented mumbling. The room full of writers felt awkward.

Atlas returned, water dripping from his thick muscles. Much of the anger was gone, displaced by a worn fury.

"I wanna apologize for my behavior, wasn't right, really," said Atlas. "Don't matter how bad I

(Continued on page 62)



In spite of Atlas' tremendously developed stomach muscles, the pain of Von Raschke's clawhold is unbearable.

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WHY WAHOO McDANIEL DOESN'T GET THE PRESS HE DESERVES

"YOU PRESS PEOPLE have been giving me the big shaft all my career and I'm damn tired of it," the broad-shouldered man shouted.

This capsule of resentful hate is none other than Wahoo McDaniel. He has a gripe. How valid it is will be determined by professional scrutiny.

"Professional what? You guys don't know the first thing about professional this or that," Wahoo charged. "I've read your stuff. Poor, poor, and triple poor.

"But that doesn't mean anything. I want to know why you never do stories on me. I want to know why you never put me on your lousy cover."

Among Southern scientific wrestlers, McDaniel ranks high in popularity and skills. Though an explosive temper has denied him victory in title matches, he remains a superb and formidable wrestler.

Yes, Wahoo, we concede, gladly, that you are deserving of press attention. But the fault lies not in our typewriters, dear Wahoo, but in yourself.

"What do you mean, turkey? You saying I don't want to get stories written about me?" Wahoo moved to within a few, menaceful inches of the interviewer.

The relationship between athlete and press is a fragile one that requires cooperative nourishment on a regular basis. We give, you give.

You don't give, Wahoo.

"Lying dog-cutlets," Wahoo screamed, a mere two inches from the interviewer's face. "I held the Southern States title and you never approached me for a story. I've held a lot of tag team titles. Then you do a story on my partner.

"Of course, the classic example is the 'Wahoo McDaniel Loses His Temper And Gets Disqualified In A Title Match' story. How many of those have you done?" Wahoo yelled.

Concededly, there is a validity to some of your charges. Perhaps you

A bloody McDaniel wages war with NWA champion Harley Race (above left). Wahoo applies a chinlock against a confused, helpless foe (above right).

have been neglected in the press. To a degree.

But ignoring your volcanic temper would be ignoring our journalistic duty. That we cannot do. However, that apparently is not the point.

What is becoming apparent is the breakdown in communication between us. Be honest, Wahoo. How many times have you been rude to reporters?

"You guys annoy me," was the confession.

Wahoo McDaniel enjoys a beautiful relationship with the fans of wrestling. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of his rapport with the press. A simple misunderstanding may be the cause of this unfortunate alienation

Okay. But unless we receive cooperation from you, we can't do interviews. And unless you pose, we can't photograph cover shots.

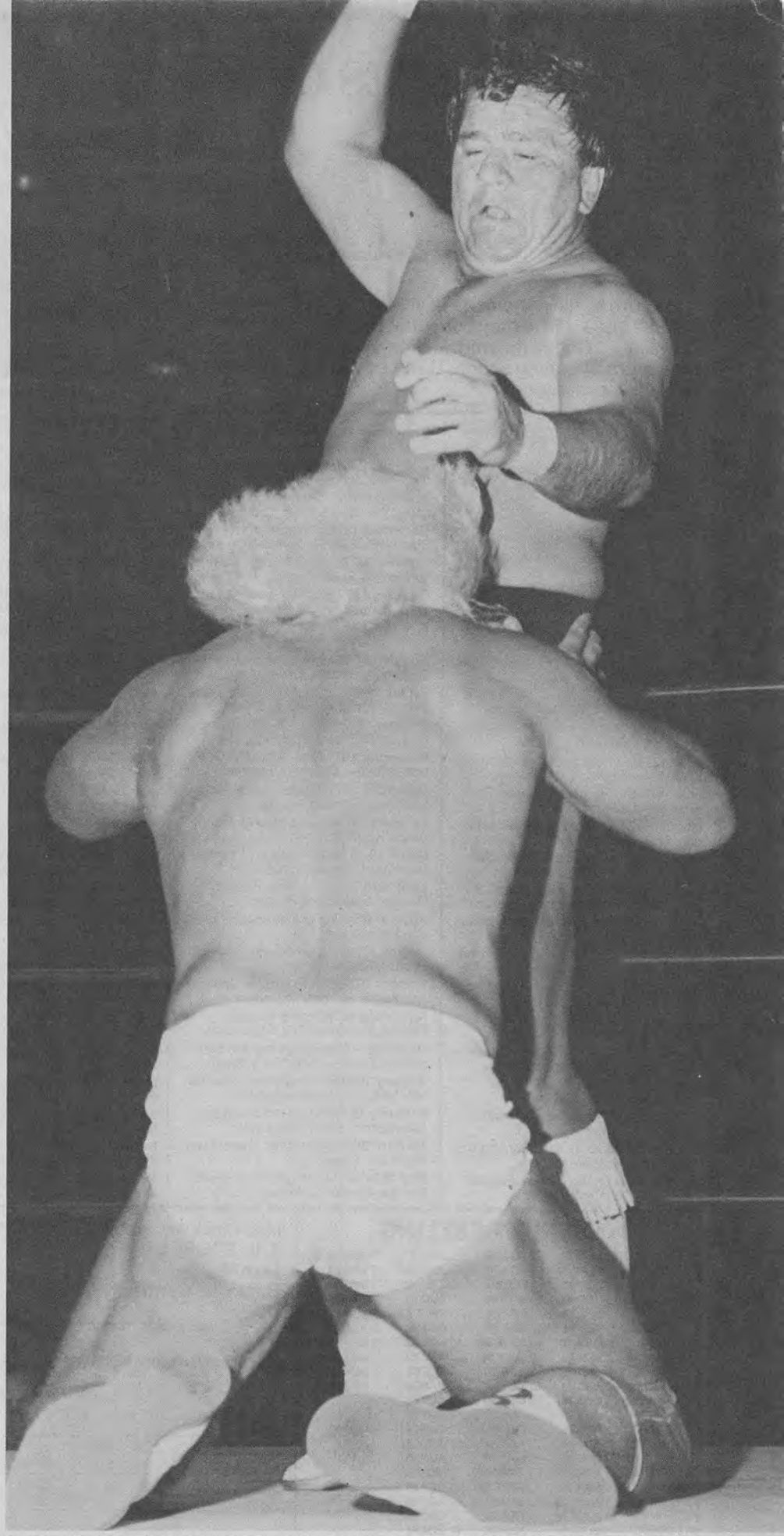
"Yeah, but . . ." Wahoo faltered.

We're not seeking sainthood. We make mistakes and we have the courage to admit when we do. But we need the cooperation of the wrestlers.

Some wrestlers absolutely refuse to talk to us, to be near us and to have anything other than a contemptuous relationship with us. We try not to permit this to poison our attitude toward them.

Then there are those who extend complete cooperation. Naturally, they receive a lot of press, most of it justified by their ring behavior

(Continued on page 60)



Wahoo tries for a pin against Dory Funk Jr. (opposite page top). Wahoo battles his archenemy, Ric Flair (above).

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Inside Wrestling

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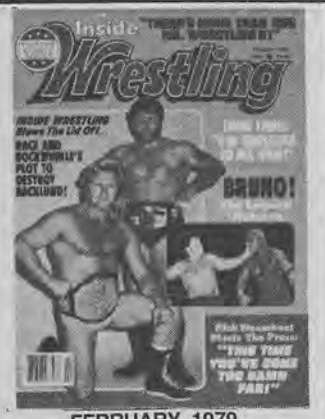


FEBRUARY 1979

April 1974/Stories include: Murdoch, Koloff, Sammartino, Strongbow.

July 1974/Stories include: Garea, Zbyszko, Heenan, Strongbow.

August 1974/Stories include: Sammartino, Sheik, Albano, Ladd.

September 1974/Stories include: Sammartino, Graham, Brooks, Bruiser.

November 1974/Stories include: Garvins, Mascaras, Sammartino, Graham.

June 1975/Stories include: Sammartino, Abdullah, LeDuc, Brisco.

August 1975/Stories include: Valentine, Garea, Rhodes, Sammartino.

September 1975/Stories include: Mascaras, Funk, Valiants, Gagne.

January 1976/Stories include: Andre, Flair, Ladd, Putski.

February 1976/Stories include: Andre, Strongbow, Lewin, Brazil.

March 1976/Stories include: Ladd, Funk, Sheik, Robinson.

April 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Albano, Flair, Brisco.

June 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Bockwinkel, Flair, Mascaras.

August 1976/Stories include: Funks, Mascaras, Sammartino, Putski.

September 1976/Stories include: Andre, Funk, Hansen, Mascaras.

October 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Race, Johnson, Jones.

November 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Wrestling II, Funk, Sammartino.

December 1976/Stories include: Stasiak, Rhodes, Bockwinkel, Orton.

January 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Brisco, Funk, Gagne.

February 1977/Stories include: Andre, Funk, Sammartino, Gagne.

May 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Putski, Sheik, Race.

August 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Mascaras, Lawler.

September 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Mascaras, Brisco.

October 1977/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes, Backlund, Mulligan.

November 1977/Stories include: Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras, Gagne.

December 1977/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Johnson, Maivia.

February 1978/Stories include: Flair, Andre, Koloff, Johnson.

March 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Valentine, Backlund, Bockwinkel.

April 1978/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Steamboat, Bruiser.

May 1978/Stories include: Race, Putski, Von Erich, Andre.

August 1978/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Andre, Hansen.

October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Rhodes, McDaniel.

November 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Backlund, Flair, Steamboat.

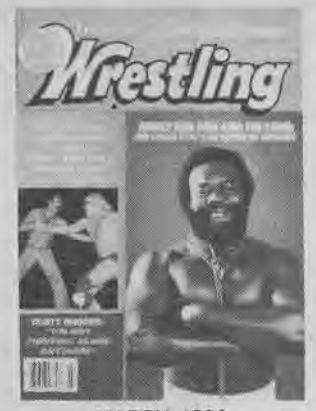
December 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Bravo.

January 1979/Stories include: Sammartino, Mulligan, Rhodes, Backlund.

February 1979/Stories include: Race, Sammartino, Steamboat, Ladd.

April 1979/Stories include: Andre, Flair, Backlund, Jones.

May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Rhodes, Backlund, Heenan.



MARCH 1984

June 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Superstar, Bockwinkel, Backlund.

July 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Ladd, Valiant, Brower.

August 1979/Stories include: Flair, Garvin, Race, Sammartino.

September 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Mascaras, Strongbow, Garvin.

October 1979/Stories include: Rich, Rhodes, Backlund, Putski.

November 1979/Stories include: Snuka, Heenan, Race, Backlund.

February 1980/Stories include: Patera, Snuka, Santana, Albano.

March 1980/Stories include: Flair, Rich, Funk, Duncum.

April 1980/Stories include: Hogan, Rich, Backlund, Mascaras.

May 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Bockwinkel.

June 1980/Stories include: Putski, Andre, Hernandez, Keirn.

July 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Von Erich, Superstar, Blassie.

August 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Wrestling II, Baker, Koloff.

September 1980/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, Ladd, Iron Sheik.

November 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Putski, Bockwinkel, Koloff.

January 1981/Stories include: Race, Snuka, Morales, Slater.

February 1981/Stories include: Backlund, DiBiase, Bravo, Anderson.

April 1981/Stories include: Albano, Sammartino Jr., Race, McGraw.

May 1981/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Von Erich, Backlund, Santana.

June 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Hansen, Piper, Gagne.

September 1981/Stories include: Patera, Koloff, Khan, Junkyard Dog.

January 1982/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Race, Humperdink.

February 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Flair, Steamboat, Rhodes.

March 1982/Stories include: Rich, Backlund, Idol, Spoiler.

April 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Andre, Von Erich, Piper.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Hogan, Von Erich.

June 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Von Erich, Slaughter, Morales.

July 1982/Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.

August 1982/Stories include: Andre, Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Backlund.

September 1982/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.

October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.

December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.

February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.

March 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.

April 1983/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.

May 1983/Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.

June 1983/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.

July 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.

August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.

September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.

October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.

November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.

December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.

January 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Rich, Superstar, Piper.

February 1984/Stories include: Abdullah, Sawyers, Valiant, Von Erich.

March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.

April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.

May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.

June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.

July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.

August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.

September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.

October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.

November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.

December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.

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January 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Putski, Wrestling II, Rhodes.

February 1976/Stories include: Andre, Sammartino, Rhodes, Valentine.

March 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Putski, Lawler.

June 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Putski, Patera, Bruiser.

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January 1977/Stories include: Brody, Andre, Wrestling II, Mascaras.

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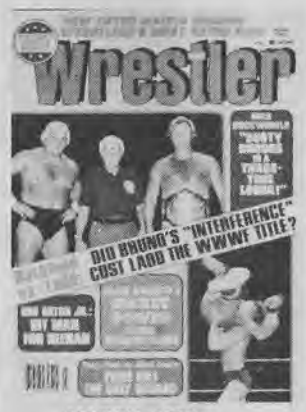

MARCH 1979

September 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Grahams, Andre, Mascaras.

October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Backlund, McDaniel, Race.

November 1978/Stories include: Flair, Andre, Ladd, Graham.

December 1978/Stories include: Brisco, Mulligan, Andre, Blanchard.

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July 1979/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Sammartino, Andre.

August 1979/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Patera, Stevens, Superstar.

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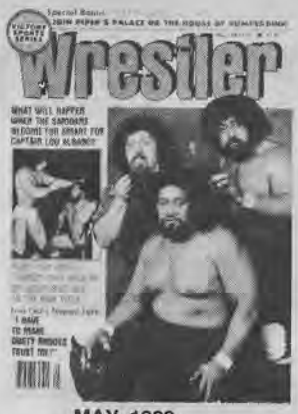
October 1979/Stories include: Flair, Valentine, Santana, Muraco.

December 1979/Stories include: Andre, Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras.



MAY 1983

January 1980/Stories include: Race, Backlund, Snuka, Brisco.

February 1980/Stories include: Andre, Flair, DiBiase, Superstar.

March 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Andre.

April 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, DiBiase, Youngblood, Wrestling II.

May 1980/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Bockwinkel, Patera.

June 1980/Stories include: Backlund, Abdullah, Brisco, Flair.

August 1980/Stories include: Valentine, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Albano.

September 1980/Stories include: Ladd, Patera, Steamboat, Gagne.

October 1980/Stories include: Patera, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Morales.

November 1980/Stories include: Rich, Hogan, Snuka, Super Destroyers.

January 1981/Stories include: Valentine, Rhodes, Patera, Von Erich.

February 1981/Stories include: Zbyszko, Patera, Iron Sheik, Wrestling II.

March 1981/Stories include: Rich, Samoans, Blassie, Wrestling II.

May 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, DiBiase, Moondogs.

June 1981/Stories include: Sammartino, Piper, Rich, Martel.

July 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Flair, Atlas.

August 1981/Stories include: DiBiase, Slaughter, Martel, Idol.

October 1981/Stories include: Funks, Rhodes, Race, Sullivan.

December 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Steele, Race, Hogan.

January 1982/Stories include: Rich, Steamboat, Sullivan, Sammartino.

March 1982/Stories include: Slaughter, Albano, Flair, Race.

April 1982/Stories include: Brisco, Armstrongs, Valentine, Santana.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Von Erich, Graham, Rich.

June 1982/Stories include: Steamboat, Reed, Albano, Piper.

July 1982/Stories include: Rich, Sawyer, Flair, Steamboat.

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October 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rhodes, Santana, Piper.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Piper, Blair.

December 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

January 1983/Stories include: Putski, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Backlund, Rich, Kamala.

March 1983/Stories include: Piper, Reed, Valiant, Roberts.

April 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Tiger Mask, Sammartino, Bundy.

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November 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.

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All this and much more . . . in the February 1985 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*

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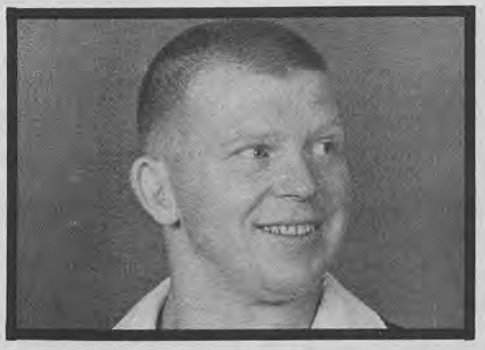
SPORTS REVIEW Wrestling

Find out how **WAHOO McDANIEL** has been blinded by hatred in his battles against NWA World champion **RIC FLAIR**



Read **BOB BACKLUND'S** own story: "Why I Feel I'm Still WWF Champion!"

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All this and much more . . . in the January 1985 issue of *Sports Review Wrestling*

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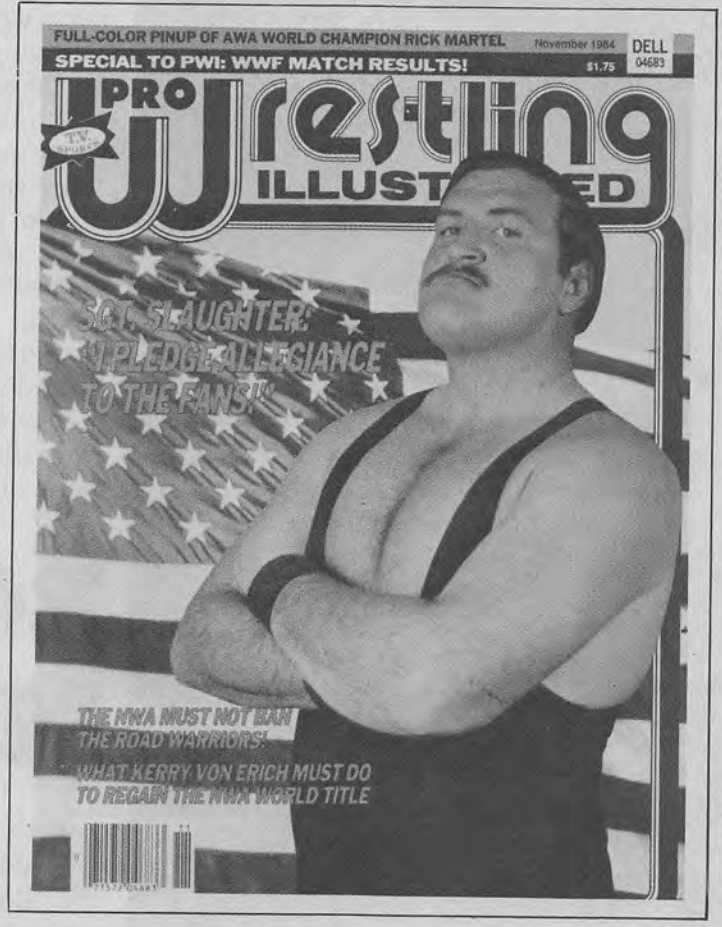
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WHAT KERRY VON ERICH MUST DO TO REGAIN THE NWA WORLD TITLE

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AS IF IT would be doing him a favor, Bob Backlund invited the reporters into his room. The athletic body seemed somehow contracted, as Backlund, stoop-shouldered, beckoned his guests to make themselves comfortable. He purposely sat in a stiff-backed chair, looking all the world like a punished schoolboy.

"You were all there last night," he began, "and you all saw the match. Looking back on it, the whole experience seems like some nightmare beyond my control. But it wasn't beyond my control. I'm fully responsible for what happened."

The reporters were uncomfortable. Backlund seemed to be asking them for forgiveness. At the same time, he seemed to be confessing and demanding punishment. The reporters stared too

BOB BAC
MATCH A

hard at their notebooks.

"I let the bloodlust get the best of me," Backlund continued. "I didn't want to defeat Jesse Ventura. I wanted to beat, humiliate, and injure him. I didn't want to end the match. I wanted to end his career.

"You all saw it. There was no excuse for what I did. I mauled a referee. Even after my opponent was defeated, I continued to punish him. The referee did the only thing he could—I was disqualified. He was right.

"That wasn't the worst, though. Afterwards, I was glad. I couldn't have been happier. In the dressing room, I was bragging about how I kept my title by disqualification. That's shameful.

"Everything I've ever believed in, everything I've tried to stand for, all of it went by the boards last night. I was as bad as any

PHOTOS BY STU SAKS

Ventura turns a test of strength into his own advantage by kicking Backlund in the groin (above left). Incensed, Backlund goes on the attack and physically prevents the referee from intervening (above right).

KLUND'S NIGHTMARE AGAINST JESSE VENTURA

rulebreaker. Hell, I was worse. I should know better."

Bob fell silent. More to break the oppressive quiet than wanting to know, someone asked, "When did you realize what happened?"

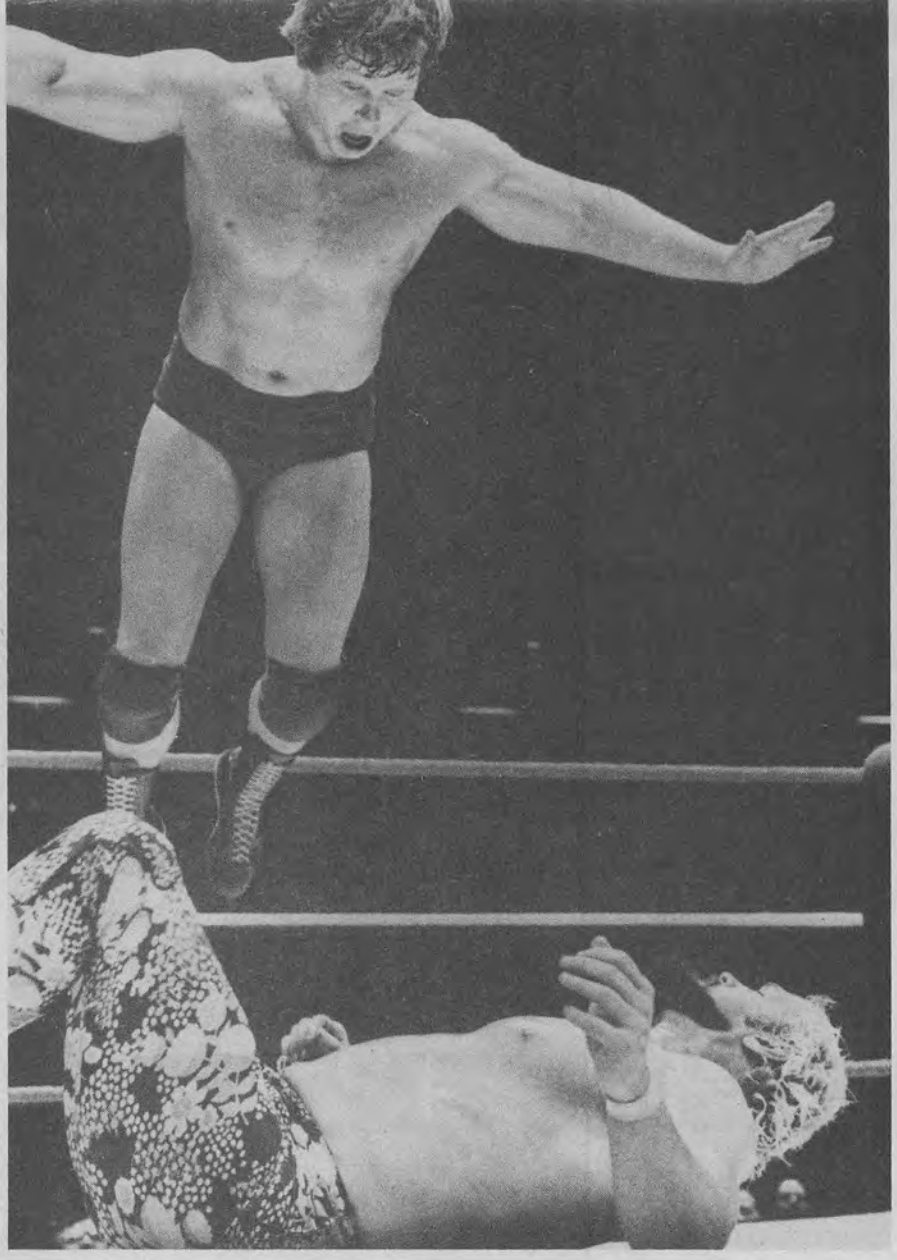
Bob's voice was soft when he answered. "After the match, I was delighted with myself. Every nerve in my body was surging with energy. I was slaphappy with victory. I walked around a bit, visited some friends, and then came home. I sat down in that large chair over there," he said, pointing to a leather recliner now occupied by a reporter, "and leaned back. Almost instantly, all the energy drained out of me. It was as if someone pulled the plug.

"At the same time, I realized what had happened. It hit me like the cold smack of a hard fist. The same things that a moment ago had given me such pleasure now made me sick to my stomach. I realized I'd wrestled the most disgraceful match of my life."

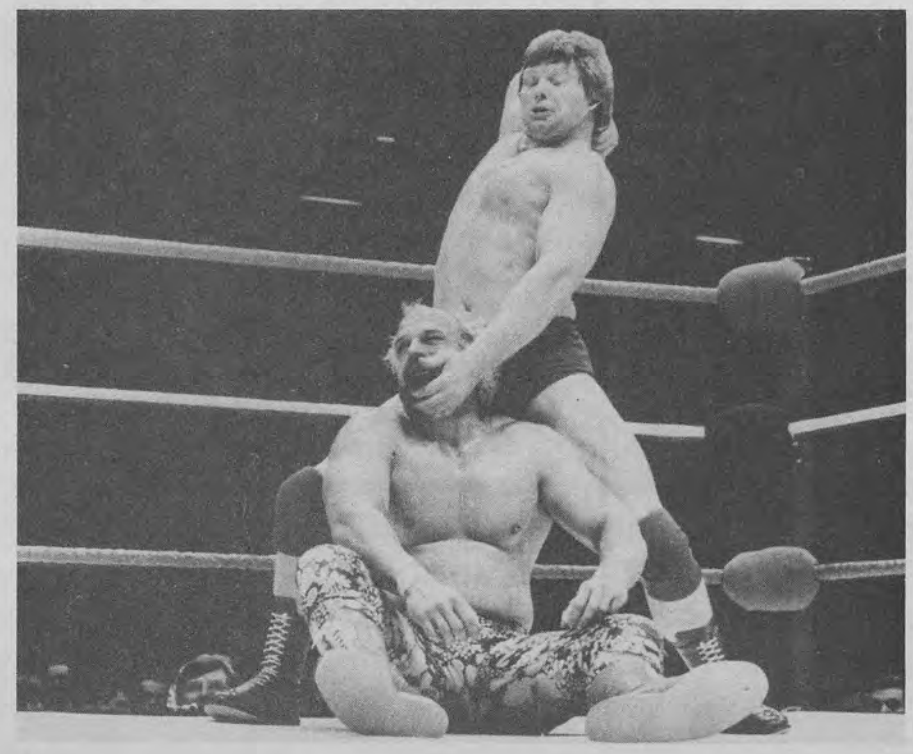
Bob got up, went to the kitchen, and called out if anyone wanted coffee. Everyone wanted something a bit stronger, but they settled for coffee. Bob brought in some mugs and everybody paid too much attention to their coffee. After what seemed like an eternity, Bob got up and started to pace. Without breaking stride, Bob suddenly started to talk.

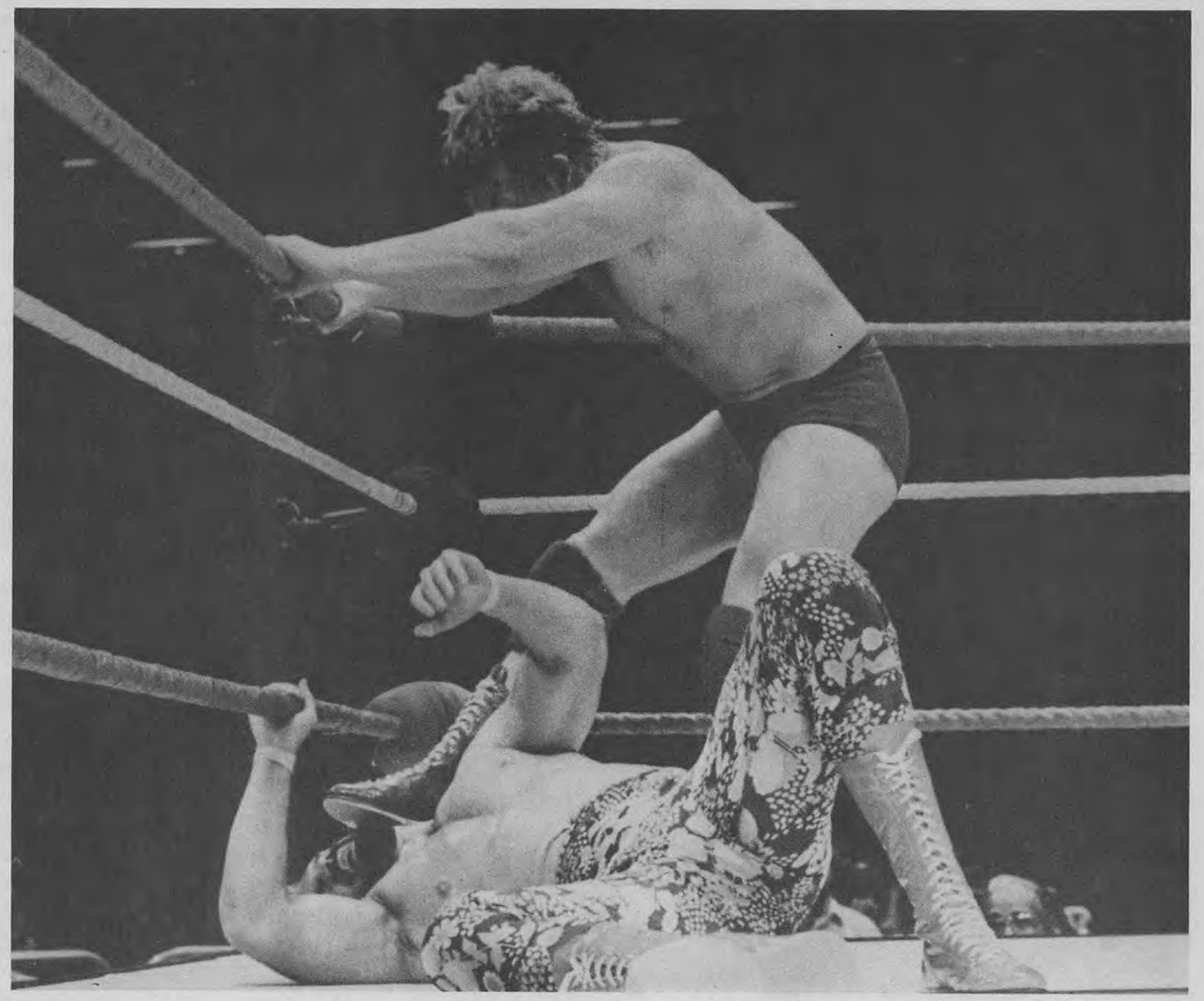
"Last night scared me. Every wrestler has some bloodlust; it's why we're attracted to a violent sport. Being an honorable professional means keeping that bloodlust in check. Last night, for the first time in my life, the bloodlust got the best of me. It took over and didn't let go for

Bob Backlund prides himself on always remaining in control. But during a match against Jesse Ventura, something snapped inside the WWF champion's brain. After being disqualified, Backlund has to look closely at himself and what he has become



Backlund takes a running dive at a fallen Ventura (left). The WWF champ punches his way out of Ventura's bearhug (above). Backlund reaches far back as he fires a forearm smash from behind (below left). Bob was disqualified for refusing to cease his attack while Ventura was under the ropes (opposite right). Manager Arnold Skoaland argues the decision on behalf of his confused wrestler (below). But when the belt was returned, Backlund was as happy as if he had won the match.





hours. I think back on last night and it's like I was a different person. No, that's not true. I was the same person but totally out of control.

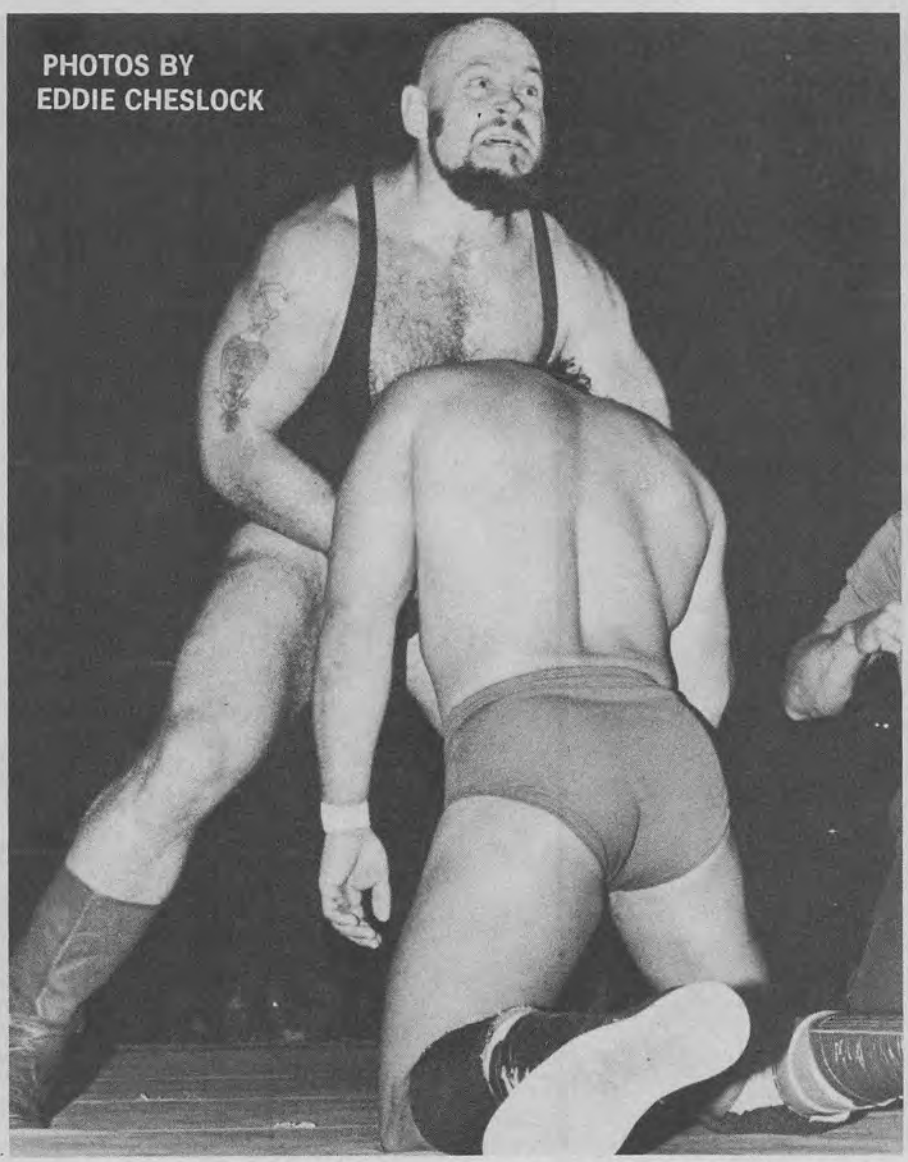
"I'm scared. I don't know what caused it. Why should Ventura get to me when so many others couldn't? Have the pressures of being champion been too much for me? I can't answer these questions. Or am I just afraid of the answers?

"There's something else." Bob paced silently for about a minute before resuming, "I guess it's the real reason that I'm scared. What if I lose control again? And more terrifying, what if I don't regain my senses?

"I hate wrestlers who are out of control. If there's any legacy I wish to leave behind it's that a man need not be an animal to be champion. Now, I don't know if I'll be able to leave that legacy behind. I think that to a lot of people I represent the good, clean side of pro wrestling. If I lose control and consistently behave irrationally, then there isn't much of a difference between the rule-breakers and me, is there? That would be the greatest tragedy of all. It would destroy everything I've done.

"That would prove that a man in the pressure cooker of today's professional sports scene can't retain his integrity. That would give every rulebreaker an excuse to behave like an animal."

There was nothing left to say. Everyone left. Behind them stood Bob Backlund, determined to control his future. □



Ivan Koloff's grip on Rick Steamboat's head is as firm as his grip on the Mid-Atlantic title he so cherishes. Anybody who wrestles for that title must expect the Russian Bear's full wrath.

IVAN KOLOFF'S DEATH-GRIP ON THE MID-ATLANTIC TITLE

Ivan Koloff, the mighty Russian champion, holder of the Mid-Atlantic heavyweight championship belt, has created a barrier between his title and all challengers that seems impossible to break through. Many have tried, all have failed, and the Koloff dynasty continues to reign supreme

"I THINK THAT Ivan Koloff is the cruelest man in wrestling today."

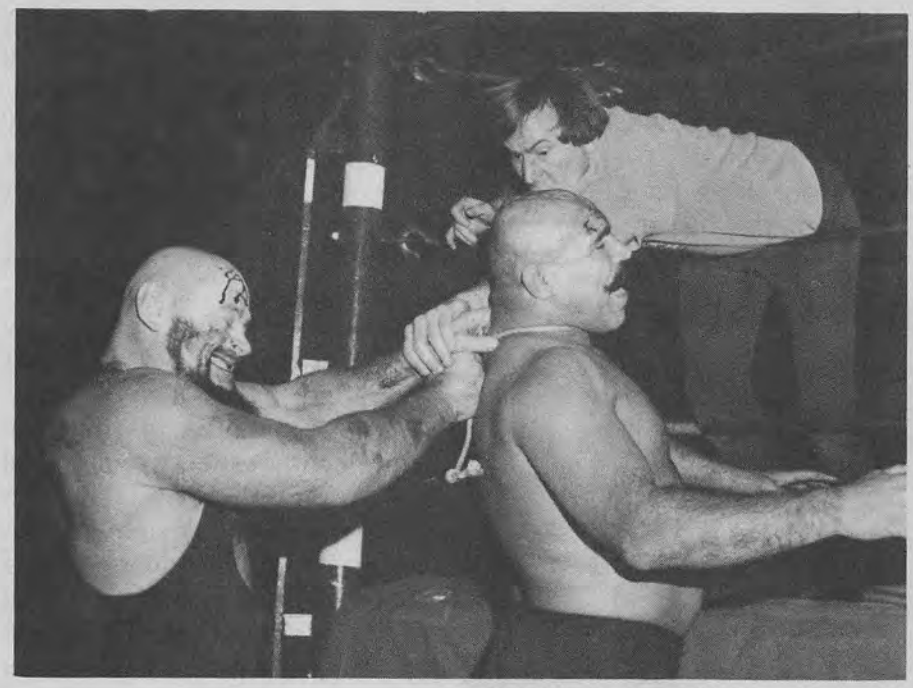
These are the words of wrestling's living legend himself, Bruno Sammartino, only three short months ago in the very pages of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated.*

Now, a mere 90 days later, these words ring as true as ever . . . perhaps more so. As Mid-Atlantic heavyweight champion, Ivan Koloff maintains a stranglehold on that region that no wrestler has been able to even weaken, much less break. This is not to say that many haven't tried.

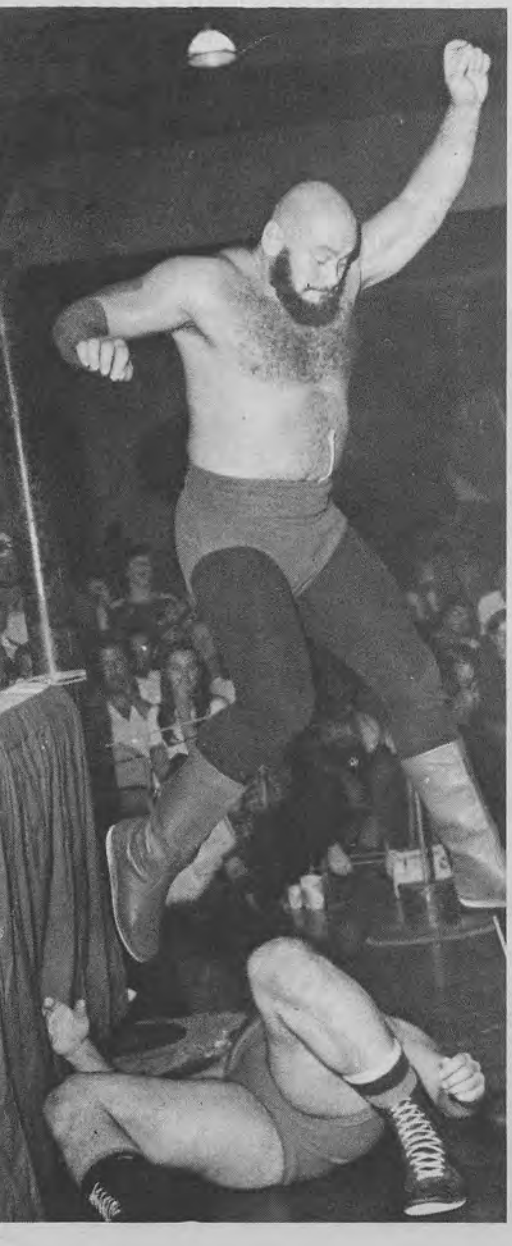
Most recently, Rick Steamboat attempted to crack the Koloff dynasty, and he learned the hard way that this angry Russian protects his territory and his belt with a spirited vengeance.

"It's amazing," said Steamboat, "but Koloff is probably one of the most brutal men in the ring I've ever had the grave misfortune of wrestling. He's not bad for the most part, but he tends to overdo things, he is more violent than is necessary in all cases. I can't respect a man for that."

A former WWF champion, Koloff is notorious for his cruelty in the ring. Dusty Rhodes



Koloff's clashes with Hussein Arab (above left) were bloody wars of attrition. Koloff is into chains, or anything else that will help him defend his title (above right). Ivan launches a brutal attack from the ring apron (left). Steamboat would not be able to maintain his bearhug against the Bear (below).

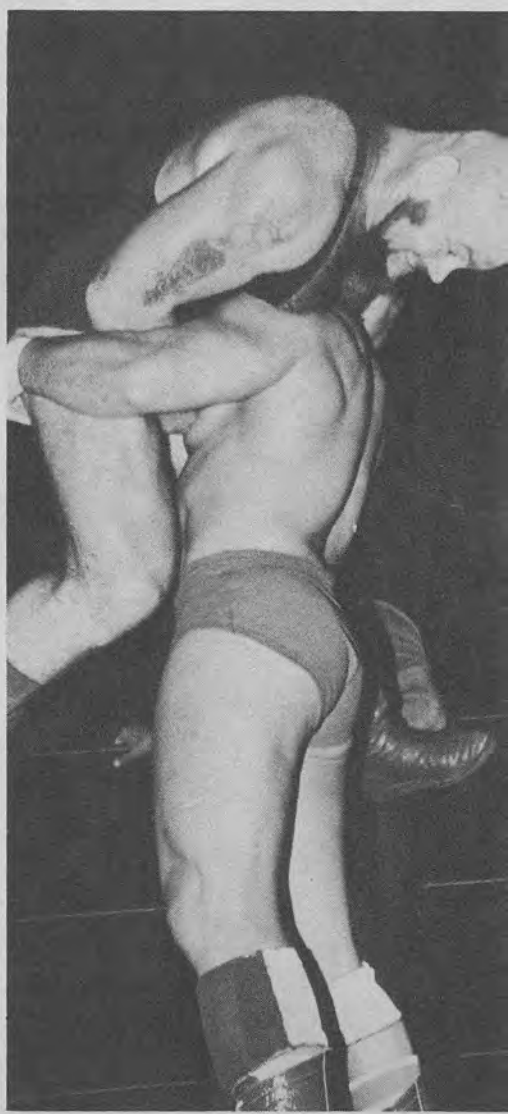


witnessed a match between Koloff and Hussein Arab.

"When I saw that madman go up against Hussein," said the American Dream, "I knew that there was going to be fireworks. There was, sure as Texas is big. Granted, if anyone deserved to be abused by a lunatic like Koloff it was Arab, and I was sure glad to see that happen, but even I was wincing at times during that match. I've been in the ring against Koloff, and it's true, he is one mean man."

No one really seems to know why Ivan Koloff is so angry when he wrestles. Perhaps he is venting anger against something else in his life when he wrestles, though this is only speculation. Ask Koloff about it, and he'll tell you nothing . . . only that he is viciously single-minded in his defenses of the Mid-Atlantic title.

"No one beat me for Mid-Atlantic heavyweight championship," says Koloff, a thick Russian accent flowing over every syllable. "I face Wahoo McDaniel in the ring, I go up against crazy Hussein Arab, I even face wrestlers you people



call your best. People like Rick Steamboat, Dusty Rhodes, and Ric Flair.

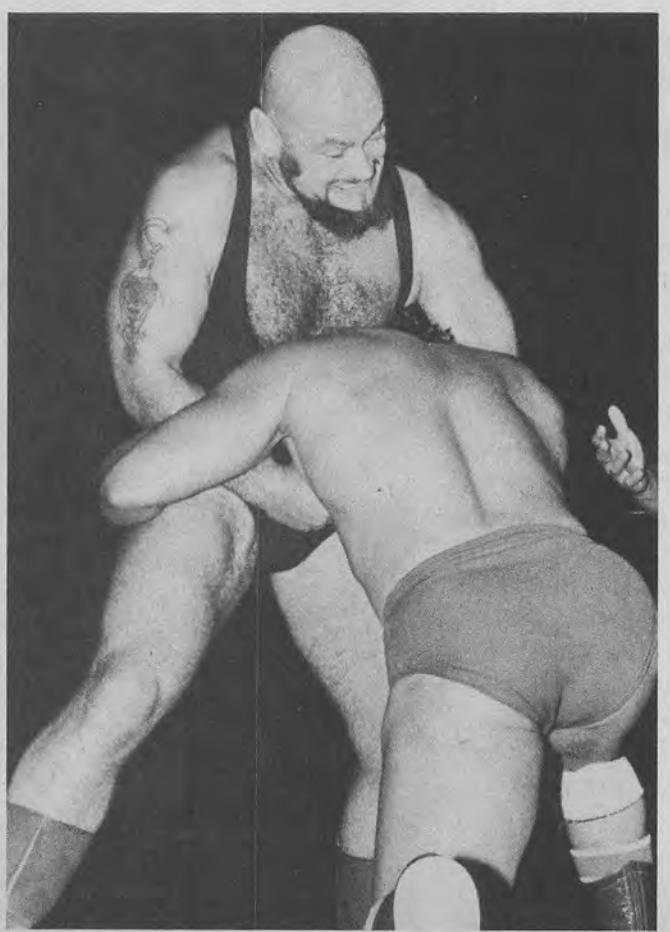
"I wrestle all these people," continued Ivan, "and nobody here give me credit. Nobody here write about me the way I deserve, that I am great wrestler, that I have been in ring with these so-called superstars. No. What do they write instead? They say things like I am crazy, that I am angry, that I am too mean for these people.

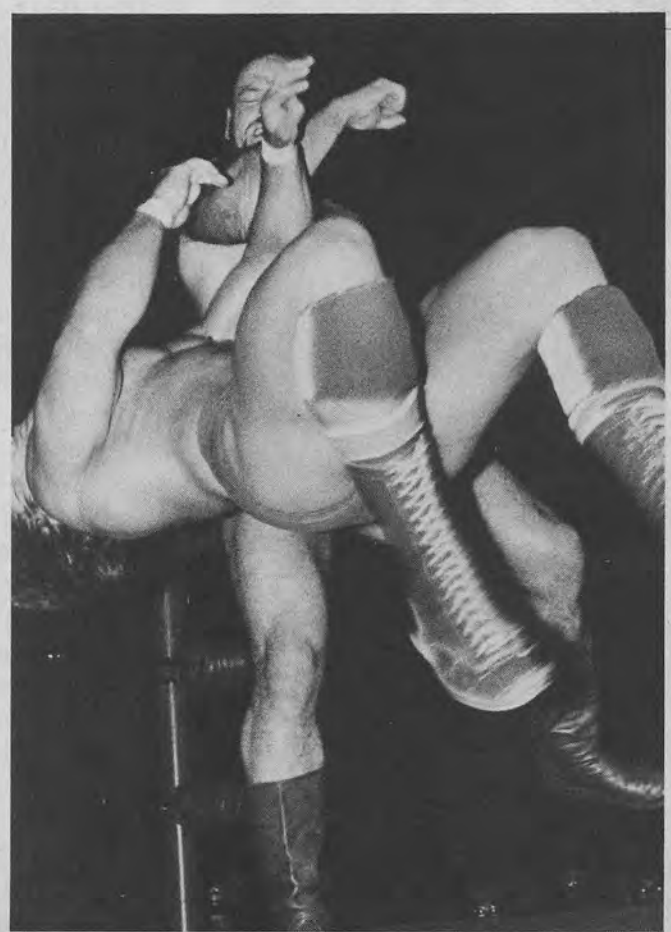
"Well, maybe I am too mean," the Russian speculated. "You know, here in America, these people have weak stomach. They do not understand what it takes to be great wrestler. They do not understand that this is violent sport, that pain and hurt are part of this violent sport. Some American wrestling fans think wrestlers should dance around in ring and never show off their strength. I say that is wrong.

"Also I think that maybe some American wrestlers are afraid of me, run a little scared, and also have weak stomach themselves," said Koloff. "Maybe some of them not so sure that they are strong enough to climb into ring with me, afraid they not look so good in front of all their precious fans. I say *nyet* to all that. When I wrestle it's me against the other wrestler. Forget about fans, forget about trying to look good. Only try to win match, that's all I worry about when I am in the ring. That is why

(Continued on page 63)

Koloff is one of the few men in wrestling whose legs are powerful enough to escape Steamboat's figure-four leglock (above). Koloff's massive arms hide the fact that he is applying an illegal chokehold (below left). The Russian's devastating elbowsmash turns Steamboat horizontal in mid-air (below right).





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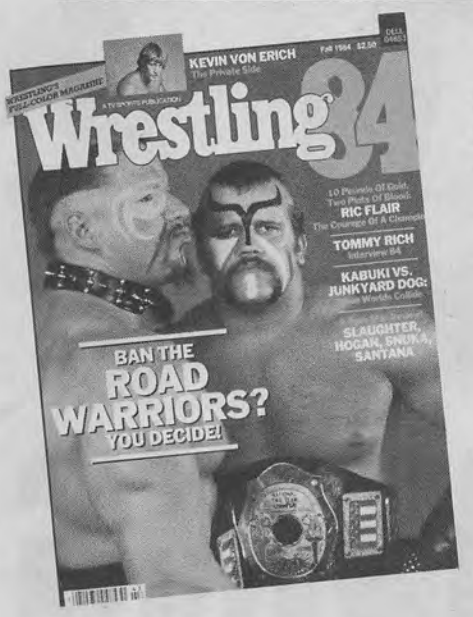

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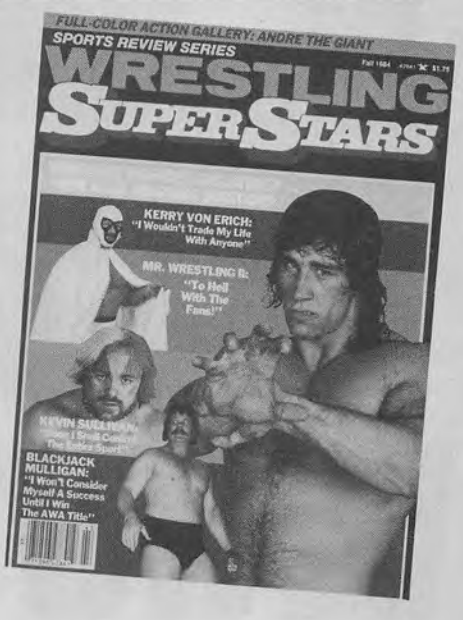
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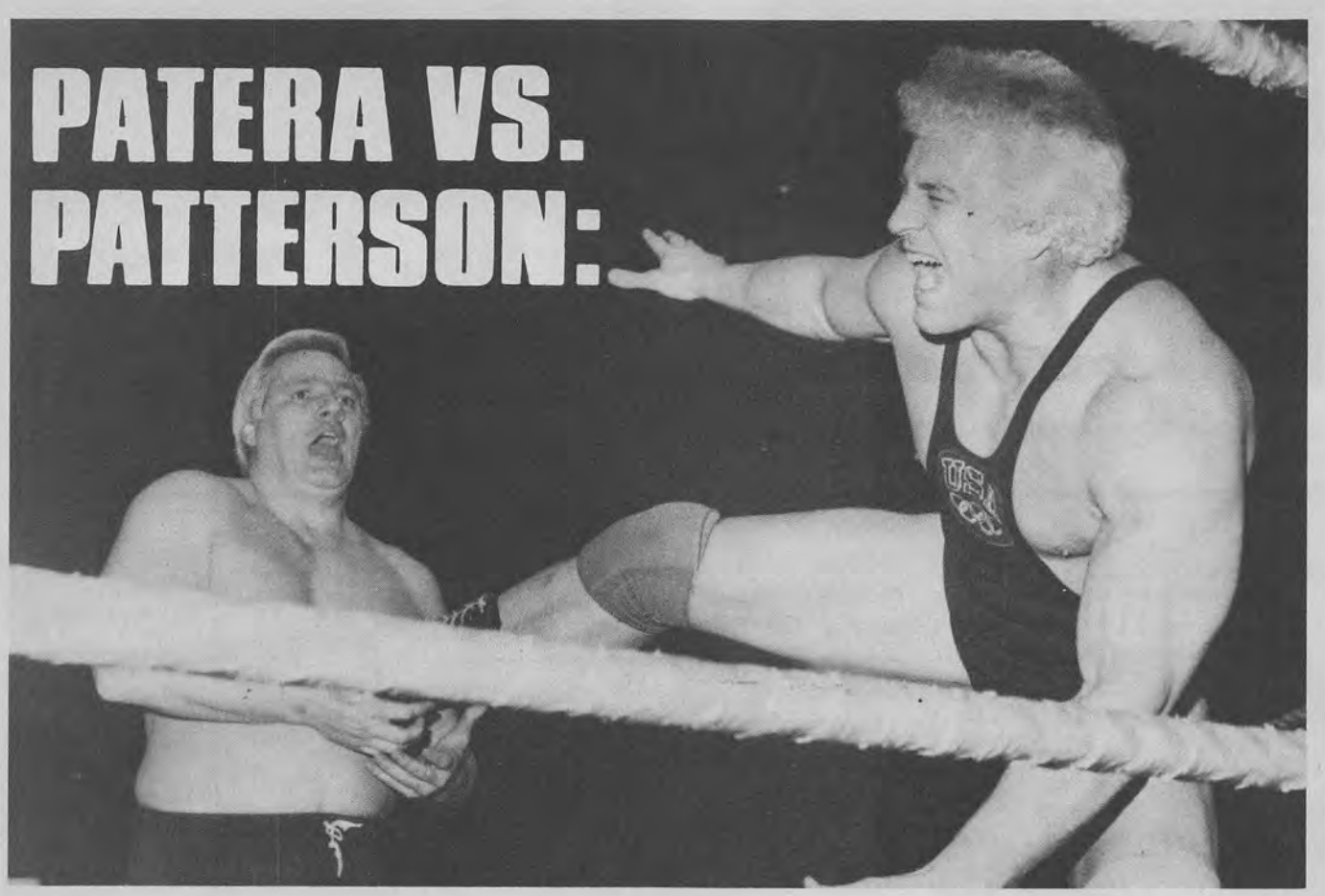


PATERA VS. PATTERSON:

WHO'S CHASING

BOTH HOTLY DENY the charges. Both point an accusing finger at the other. Both bring forth friends willing to swear to their version of the truth. Both flatly insist that they are the real aggressor, that the other runs and flees like a cowardly animal.

But Ken Patera and Pat Patterson can't both be right. Or can they?

"I tell you, the thought of that guy Ken Patera makes my blood boil and jump around my body like Mexican jumping beans," said Pat Patterson.

"Patterson? I thought I'd driven him out of the sport by now," said Patera. "But I would have, without any doubts at all, if he'd stand still long enough to fight like a man instead of the half-assed wimp and coward all the world knows him to be."

Patera and Patterson have never liked each other. Surely one does not invite these men to the same dinner party. Or even, if possible, the same city at the same time. Their feud, many believe, began with Patera's pursuit of Patterson while the latter held the Intercontinental title.

"I hated Patterson long before that," said Patera. "I always thought he lowered the dignity of the sport. How can we continue to tout professional wrestling as the most grueling form of warfare in the world

Who is the aggressor in this bizarre and bloody story? Ken Patera insists his opponent races away from him. And, of course, Pat Patterson contends Patera flees his charge. As always, there is a kernel of truth in both stories. And an undercurrent of danger

when we permit overweight, under-brained cretins like Pat Paterson to compete?

"He can't wrestle and everyone knows it. It is my duty, as the strongest man in the world, and the wisest, as well, to drive this lower form of life out of wrestling so my shoes are not dirtied any further with his filthy blood."

Patterson claims to hold the same feelings for Patera.

"That vile thing, I, I do not like him, I tell you, I do not like that Ken Patera one bit. The way he wrestles, the way he cheats, the way he treats his opponents and the fans is enough to turn my stomach sick," said Patterson.

Their contempt, often long-distance, came together when Patterson reigned as Intercontinental champion. Night after night, Patera taunted the champion, saying he wasn't fit to do this or that and vowing to

WHOM?

After losing his Intercontinental championship to Pedro Morales, a frustrated Ken Patera sneak-attacks special referee Pat Patterson and applies his deadly swinging neckbreaker (above). Patterson skillfully escapes the same hold by kicking off the turnbuckles in their following grudge match (below).

PHOTOS BY STU SAKS

Their purpose has gone far beyond the mere possession of a championship belt. Pat Patterson and Ken Patera share a common goal. And if this goal is reached, one man will not survive. Patera lifts Patterson off the ring apron and throws him into the ring (above). Patterson fires a series of rights to the top of Patera's head (below).

wrest away the championship.

"I will never forget the day I lost my title as long as I do live," said Patterson. "It is one thing to lose a title which means so very much to you. It is another thing to lose it to a worm like Patera, to a man you know is not fit enough to call himself a professional wrestler much less to wear a title like the Intercontinental championship."

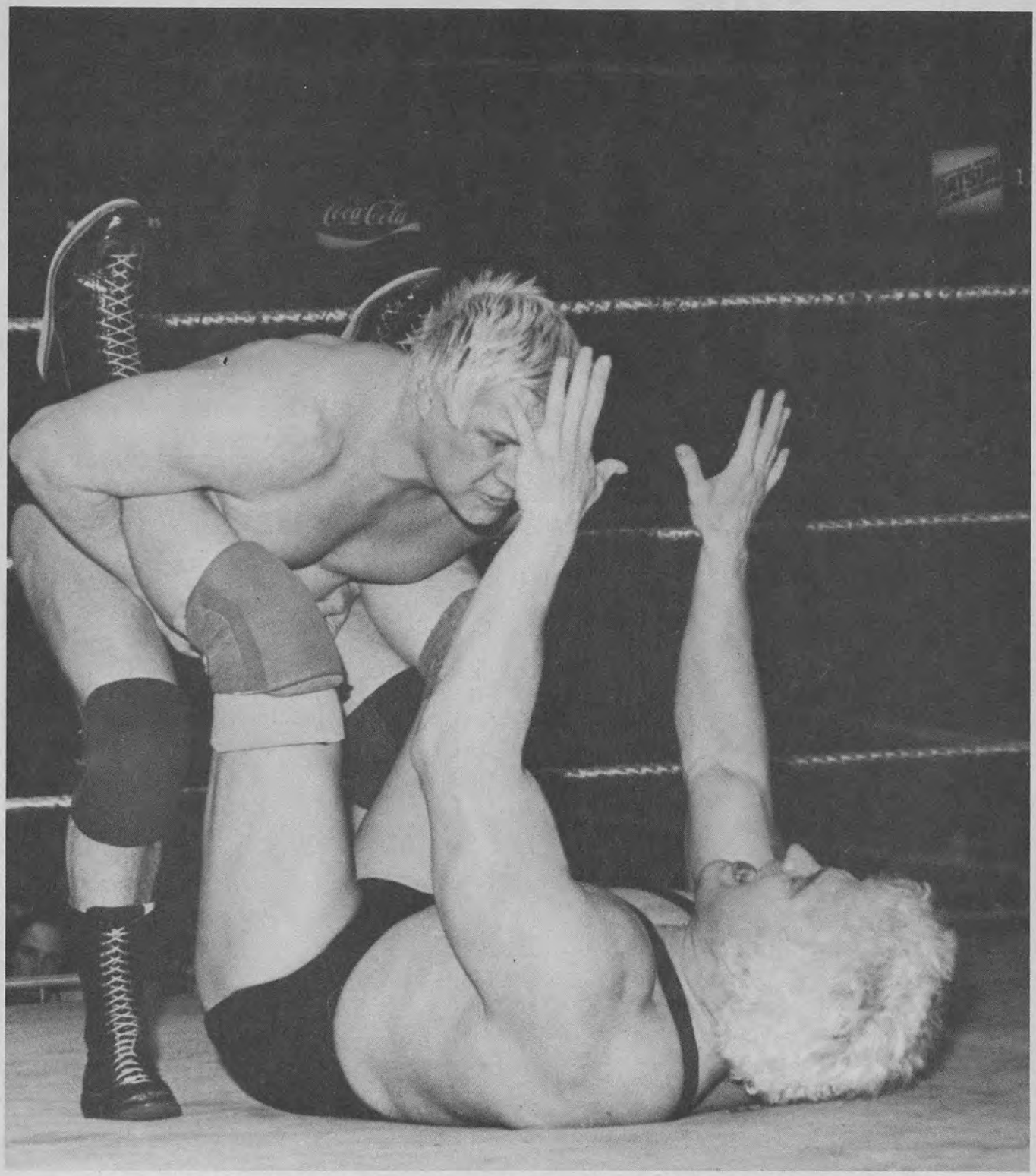
Not surprisingly, Patera defended the Intercontinental championship with contemptible valor, defying and defeating a wide variety of foes. Finally, Patera met his match when he became embroiled in a feud with Pedro Morales. And the former WWF champion sounded very much like Patterson when discussing Patera.

"He is not fit to be a champion, I am champion once, I know what it's like to wrestle hard and to have to be a model for little children. I no like that Patera, and when we meet, he better be ready for any kind of action," warned Morales.

In their recent match at Madison Square Garden, Pat Patterson was special guest referee for the title bout between Morales and Patera. Quite strangely, Patera offered little resistance to Patterson refereeing the match.

"I can handle both of 'em," said Patera, shrugging.

Of course, Patera was to change his tune after the match. Morales demonstrated the skills and strengths which earned him worldwide recognition years back as WWF champion to seize the Intercontinental title from Patera. But that's only half the story. While Morales paraded the diamond-studded belt around the ring, Patera delivered a crushing blow from behind. He then went after a stunned Patterson, applying his deadly swinging neckbreaker.



Patterson prepares to turn Patera over into a Boston crab submission hold. Patera, however, summons his tremendous strength to avoid completion of the maneuver and the brutal match continues.

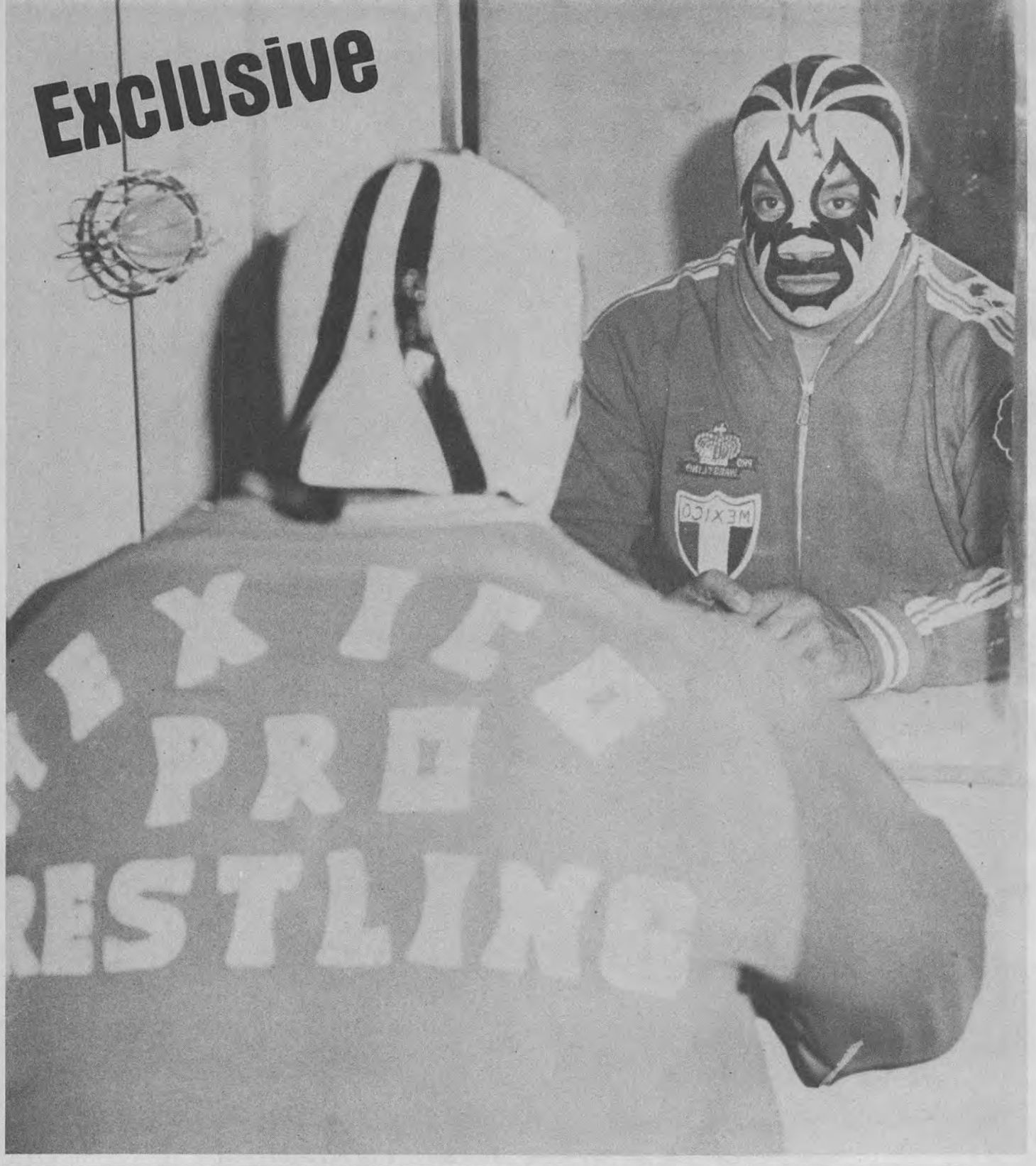
"I will get him for that," said Patterson. "He cannot get away with that, I will hunt him down and get him."

As for Patera?

"Patterson should be quickly disposed of, much in the manner you wrap up garbage and dump it down the incinerator. You may get your hands dirty, but it can be washed away," he said.

Feuds which go on beyond the mere determination of a champion are the worst feuds of all. Even the most heinous rulebreaker will find his despicable actions tempered by mere possession of the belt and all its attendant demands.

But the hate between Patterson and Patera has no boundaries, no limits, only an end. An end which will destroy someone's career. □



For years Mil Mascaras has lived with the knowledge that a major championship was well within his grasp. For years he's been told that if he would only slightly bend the rules he could defeat any man alive. For years Mascaras resisted the urge. But at this point of his illustrious career, he's just not sure

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And Save His Career

THEY SAY THAT the eyes are the mirror of the soul. Looking into Mil Mascaras' eyes, one could tell there was something troubling him. Absent was that look of confidence. Replacing that look was one of frustration—and confusion.

From the moment Mascaras arrived at the offices of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, it was obvious something was troubling him. "I've never seen him like this," said Managing Editor Stu Saks.

Without even a hello for any of the reporters he has known and worked with for years, Mascaras stormed through the editorial offices straight to the posh office of Publisher Stanley Weston. This was not like Mascaras, who always makes time for a reporter, an admirer, for anyone who needs his help. The editors knew something was troubling Mascaras, but no one guessed how serious it could be.

"I'm at a crossroads," he told Weston as he sat across from his large oak desk. "I have a big decision to make, and I need your help." Weston nodded and let Mil continue.

Faced with the most difficult and most important decision of his career, Mil Mascaras turns to his beloved fans. Mil's personal address is provided above.

"Wrestling has been wonderful to me," the man of a thousand masks said. "This sport has taken me around the world more times than I can count. My name is a household word in every nation. But there's something missing, Stanley. They call me 'The People's Champion,' but it's not enough. I've lived without a major federation title for too long. I know I'm as good as any of the three champions. I've always wanted a title, but I've always said I wouldn't compromise my principles to get one. I just don't know anymore.

Weston was taken aback by this statement, but Mil quickly put his mind at ease. "No," he said, "I don't plan on becoming a rule-breaker, I couldn't do that to my fans. It just seems to me there is no longer room in wrestling for a pure, scientific wrestler. With men in this sport like Ray Stevens, Abdullah the Butcher, and Ivan Koloff, one has to be ready to fight fire with fire. That sickens me, Stanley, but this is the reality of the situation."

Weston and Mascaras were silent for a moment, and then Weston, who has been a publisher of wrestling magazines for more than 30 years and has seen the

Mil Mascaras came to the office of his dear friend, "PWI" Publisher Stanley Weston, to discuss a delicate problem (top). Until recently, Mascaras never considered compromising the sportsmanlike approach to the sport that he demonstrates against Diamond Timothy Flowers (above) and Victor Rivera (below).

sport evolve into what it is today, said, "I understand your problem, Mil, but I don't feel it is my place to tell you what to do. Only you can decide where your career will go from here. Your career is your own; only you can make the decision."

"But it isn't my own," Mil retorted. "I have an obligation to my fans, especially the children, to set an example. They depend on me. I'm afraid of what might happen if I start bending the rules to defeat the rulebreakers. But if I don't, I could be destroyed in the ring. And most of all, if I don't reach my goal, if I don't win a world championship, I'll be letting myself down.

"I've been in wrestling for a long time, Stanley. I've seen this goal ruin wrestlers. I've seen men turned into monsters because of it, good men like Ted DiBiase. He once had the respect of the wrestling community, and now he has turned on his former friends. The fans have shamed him. I can't live without the fans' support."

Mil pondered that statement for a moment. Then he stood up and began to pace around the office. Suddenly, Mil raced toward Weston's desk, almost jumping over it.

"You can help me, Stanley," Mil shouted. "The fans who buy *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* will help me decide. Your magazine is the most respected in the world, and the fans who buy it are knowledgeable. They will help me decide what road to take."

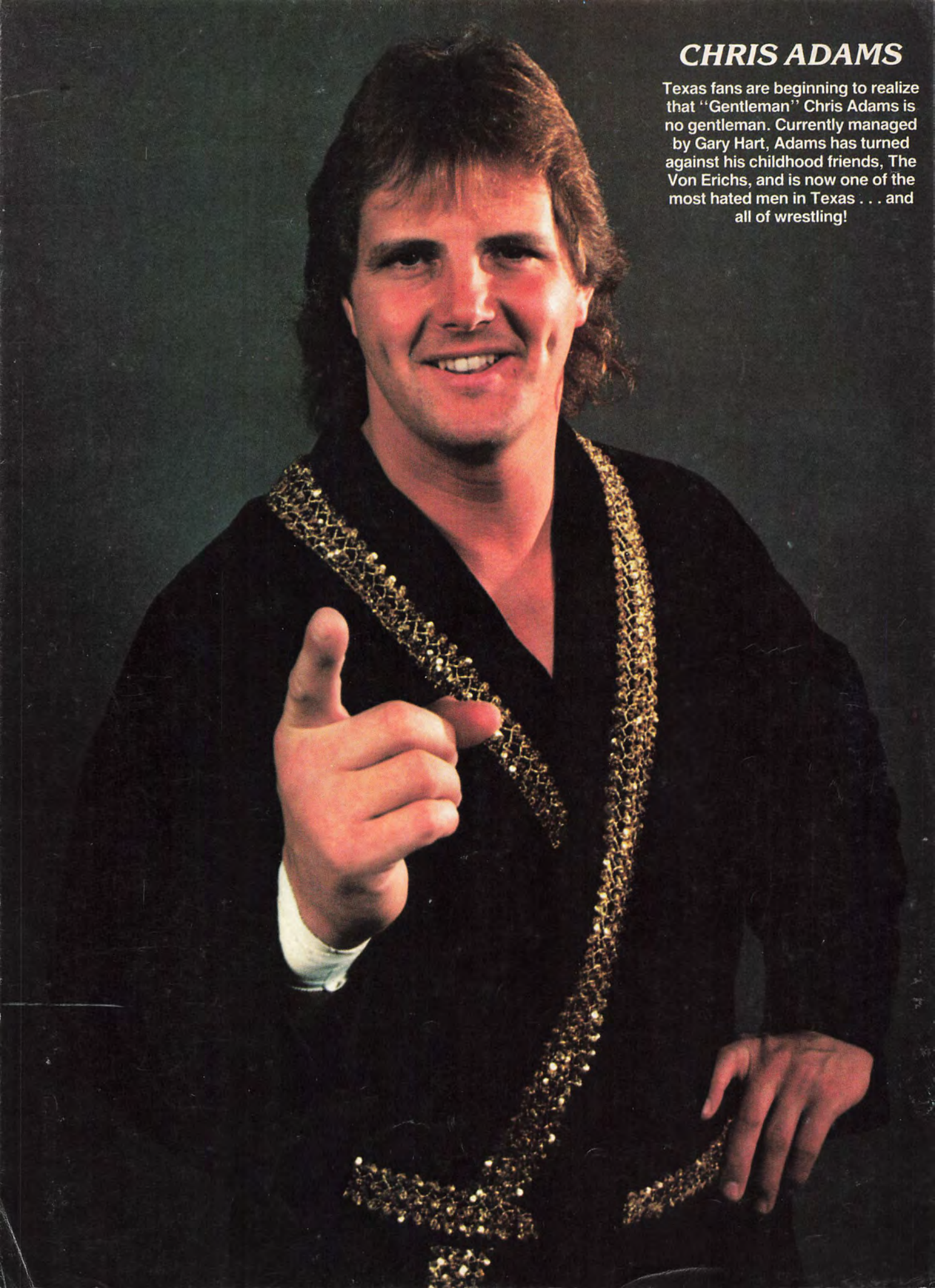
"I don't know, Mil," Weston replied. "We've never taken on such a . . ."

"I will even give you my personal address in Mexico to put in the magazine. Please, Stanely, I must know what the fans think. It could mean my career."

"Well," Weston said, "we've never done anything like this before, but if it means that much to you, we'll give it a shot."

Mascaras' mood changed instantly. He was even more jubilant than usual, and those eyes—the mirrors of his soul—danced once again. He was no longer faced with making the most important decision of his life. The fans—those to whom his entire career is devoted—would make the decision for him.

It is now up to you, the fans of Mil Mascaras. Should he change his wrestling style and go punch for punch with the sport's brawlers? Or should he remain the wrestler who has gained the world's respect and quite possibly never win a world championship? You have his address. Now make the decision. □

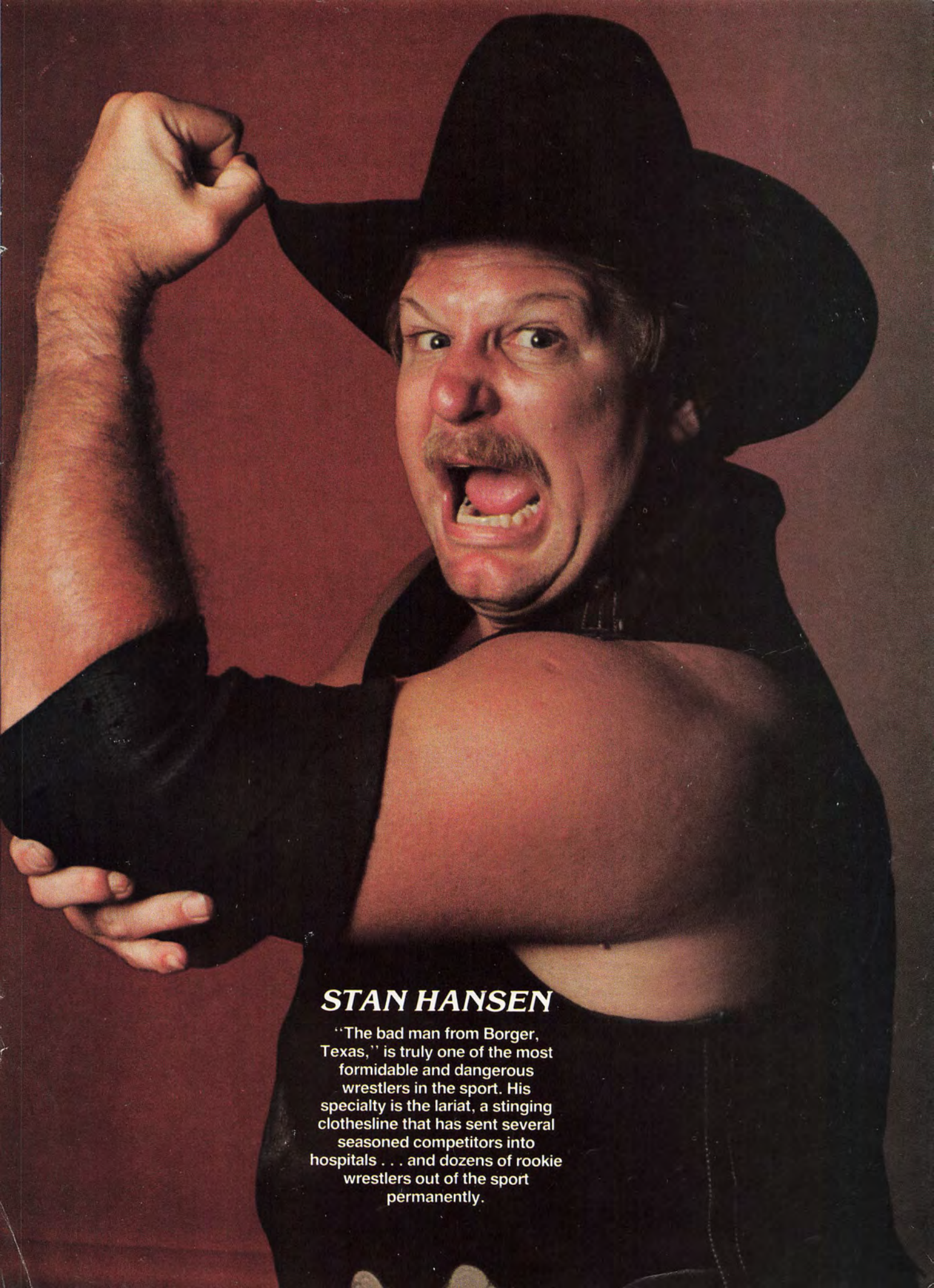


CHRIS ADAMS

Texas fans are beginning to realize that "Gentleman" Chris Adams is no gentleman. Currently managed by Gary Hart, Adams has turned against his childhood friends, The Von Erichs, and is now one of the most hated men in Texas . . . and all of wrestling!

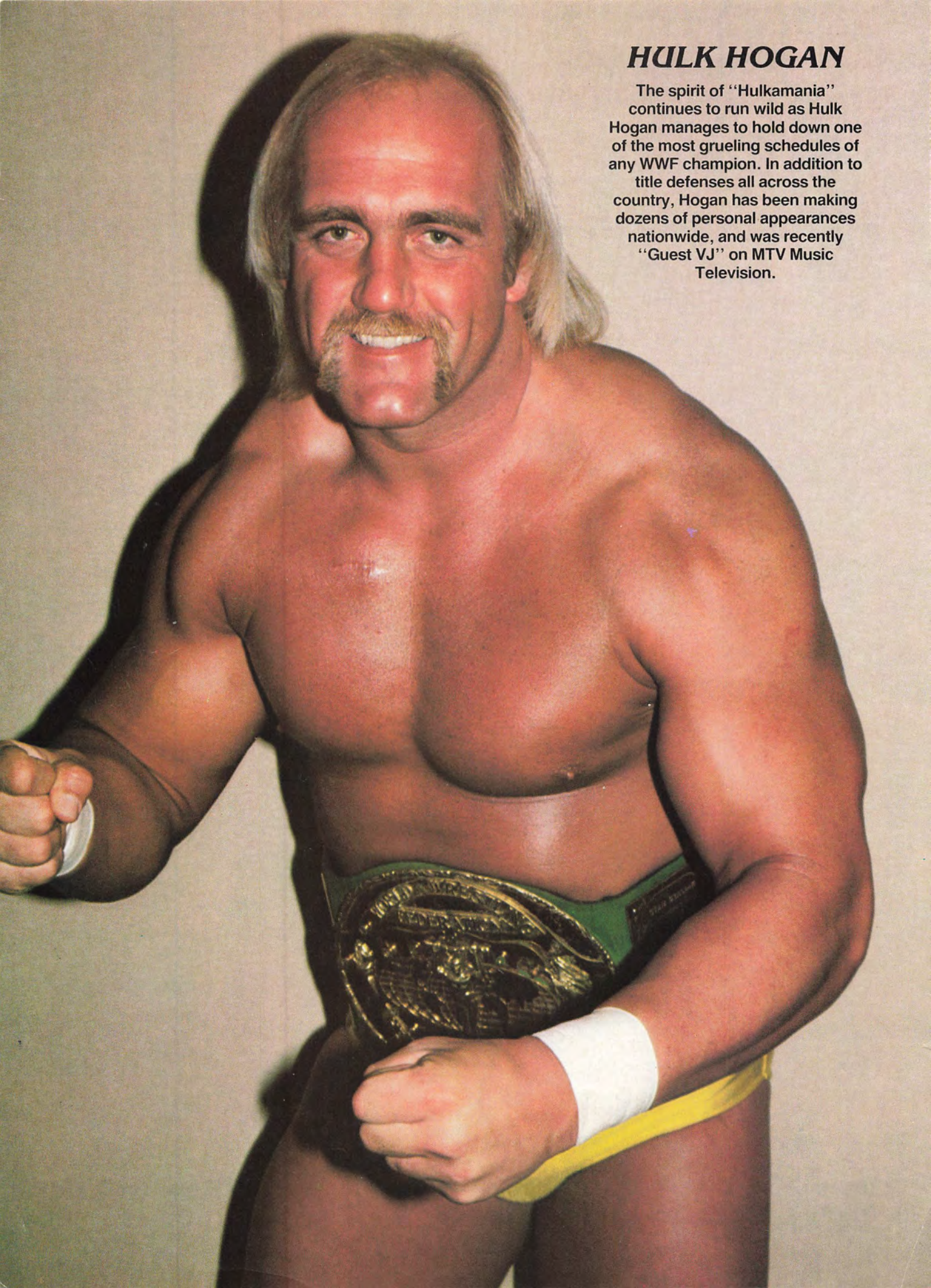
THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS

Rick Morton and Robert Gibson have been setting the world of tag team wrestling ablaze with their precision teamwork and athletic wrestling styles. Currently the Mid-South tag team champions, Morton and Gibson have developed a reputation that is becoming known from coast to coast and around the world.



STAN HANSEN

"The bad man from Borger, Texas," is truly one of the most formidable and dangerous wrestlers in the sport. His specialty is the lariat, a stinging clothesline that has sent several seasoned competitors into hospitals . . . and dozens of rookie wrestlers out of the sport permanently.



HULK HOGAN

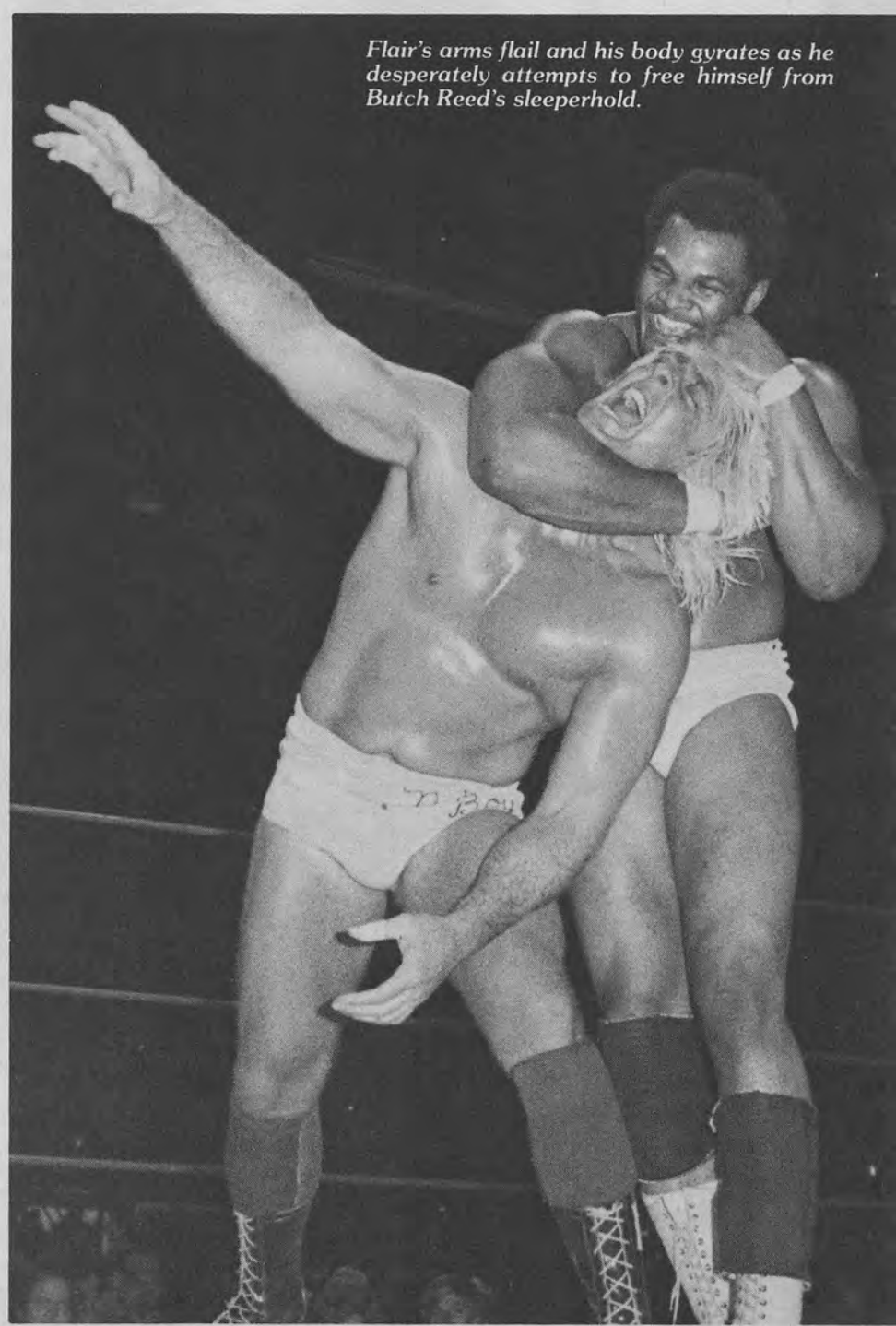
The spirit of "Hulkamania" continues to run wild as Hulk Hogan manages to hold down one of the most grueling schedules of any WWF champion. In addition to title defenses all across the country, Hogan has been making dozens of personal appearances nationwide, and was recently "Guest VJ" on MTV Music Television.

Beginning Of The End?

RIC FLAIR FALLS TO AN UNKNOWN CONTENDER

Is the end of Ric Flair's title reign as NWA champion coming near? No one had considered Hacksaw Butch Reed a serious challenge to Flair's NWA belt . . . until he pinned the champ on television. That match got Flair to thinking that his days may be numbered. He may be right

Photos By Bill Otten

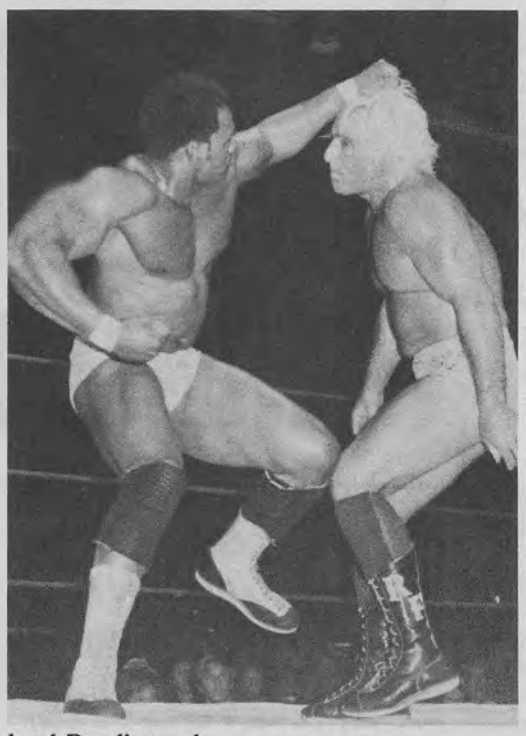


Flair's arms flail and his body gyrates as he desperately attempts to free himself from Butch Reed's sleeperhold.

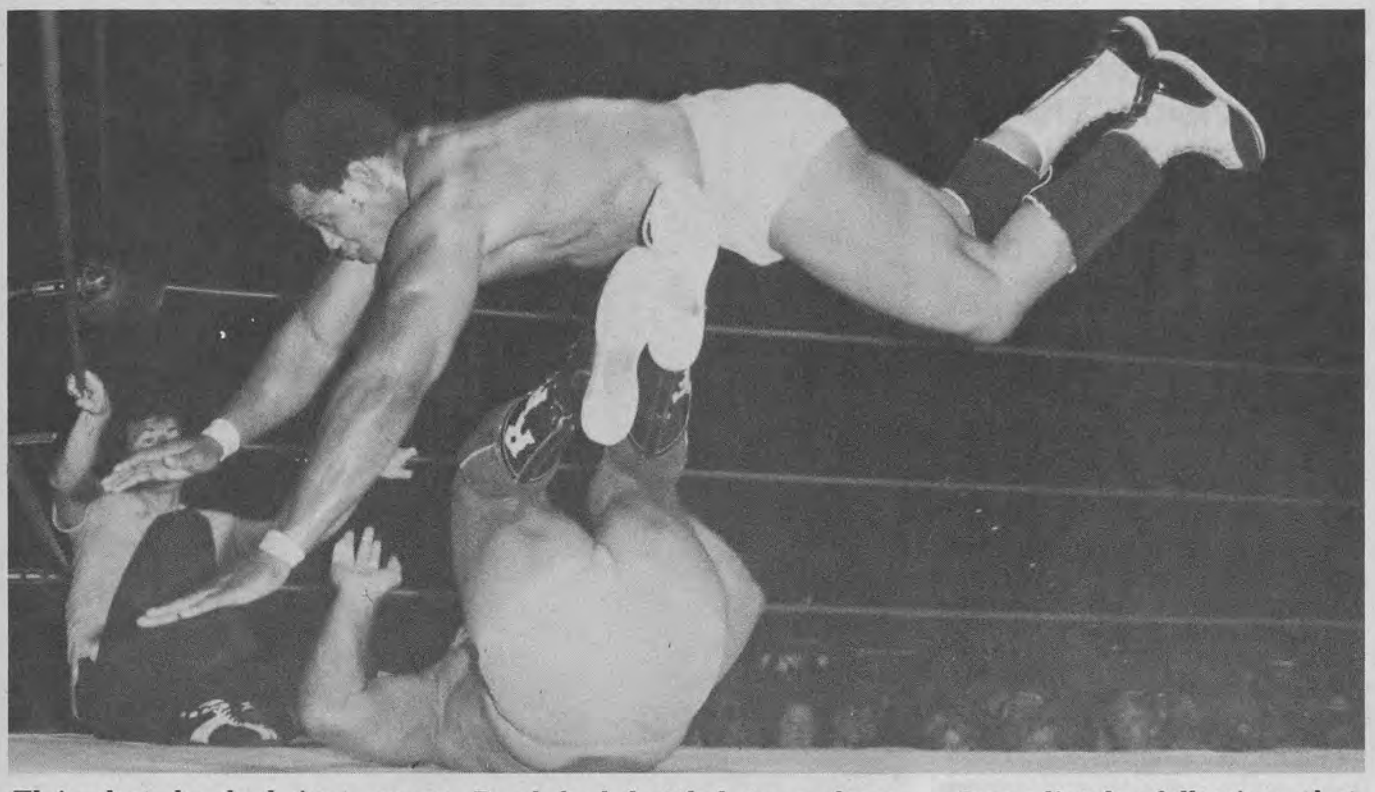
RIC FLAIR ASKED the question to no one in particular.

"Have you ever had one of those days where you get to the end and it feels as if you've been sleepwalking for the last 24 hours? It's not as if you suddenly wake up, either, it's more like you just become aware of your situation but you continue to feel like you're asleep. It's very strange. It's like you have very little, if any, control over what you do."

It was an unusually philosophical statement for Ric



Flair connects with a devastating elbowsmash to the back of Reed's neck (above left). Grabbing a handful of Flair's hair, Reed has the champion wide open for a right hand (above right). With the referee down in the corner, Flair lifts his knees in time to thwart Reed's diving bodypress attempt (below).



Flair, but he had just come through a very unusual match.

It all began on Florida television. Flair had an NWA heavyweight title defense against Hacksaw Butch Reed. The match had a 30-minute time limit.

After half an hour, Flair and Reed had battled to a draw. Flair requested five more minutes and the officials agreed. A few minutes later, Reed had pinned Flair. The crowd on hand nearly went berserk, but Flair was allowed to keep his title as the contract stated a 30-minute time limit only.

Immediately following that televised match, Flair publicly offered wrestlers like the Funks and the Von Erichs bounties of $5,000 and $10,000 to eliminate Reed before he had to return to the Florida area. Flair's hope was that if he could take Reed out of action, he wouldn't have

to face him again in a title match and possibly be pinned again. . . this time *within* the allotted time limit.

Hacksaw Reed knew well enough what Flair was up to, but he courageously ran the gauntlet of bounty matches and emerged intact and able to face Flair once more.

Their rematch took place in Orlando, Florida. The largest crowd in recent memory packed into Eddie Graham Sports Complex to see whether Reed would be able to repeat his television performance and take the championship away from Flair.

Hacksaw Reed entered the ring bubbling with enthusiasm. He was ready for action and he knew that all he had to do was allow history to repeat itself. If Flair could be pinned once he can be pinned twice. Reed was ready to do it.

Ric Flair entered the ring as emotionless as any living being can be. Quietly, mechanically, he removed his robe and championship belt and handed them to the ring attendant. If he could be pinned once by Reed, he can be pinned twice. Flair was not about to let it happen.

The bell sounded and the match began. Reed made the first move, scoring a quick takedown and ensnaring Flair in a complicated variation of the figure-four leglock. Flair screamed from the pressure being applied on his legs, but the adrenalin rush was enough to allow him to escape the hold with a swift series of countermoves.

Flair caught Reed in an armlock, relinquished the hold long enough to send an elbowsmash crashing against Reed's head, and reapplied the armlock. Reed was stunned.

Whipping Reed against the ropes, Flair prepared to use a finishing move as Reed ricocheted back to the center of the ring. Reed was prepared, however, and sent Flair to the canvas with a headsmash to the midsection.

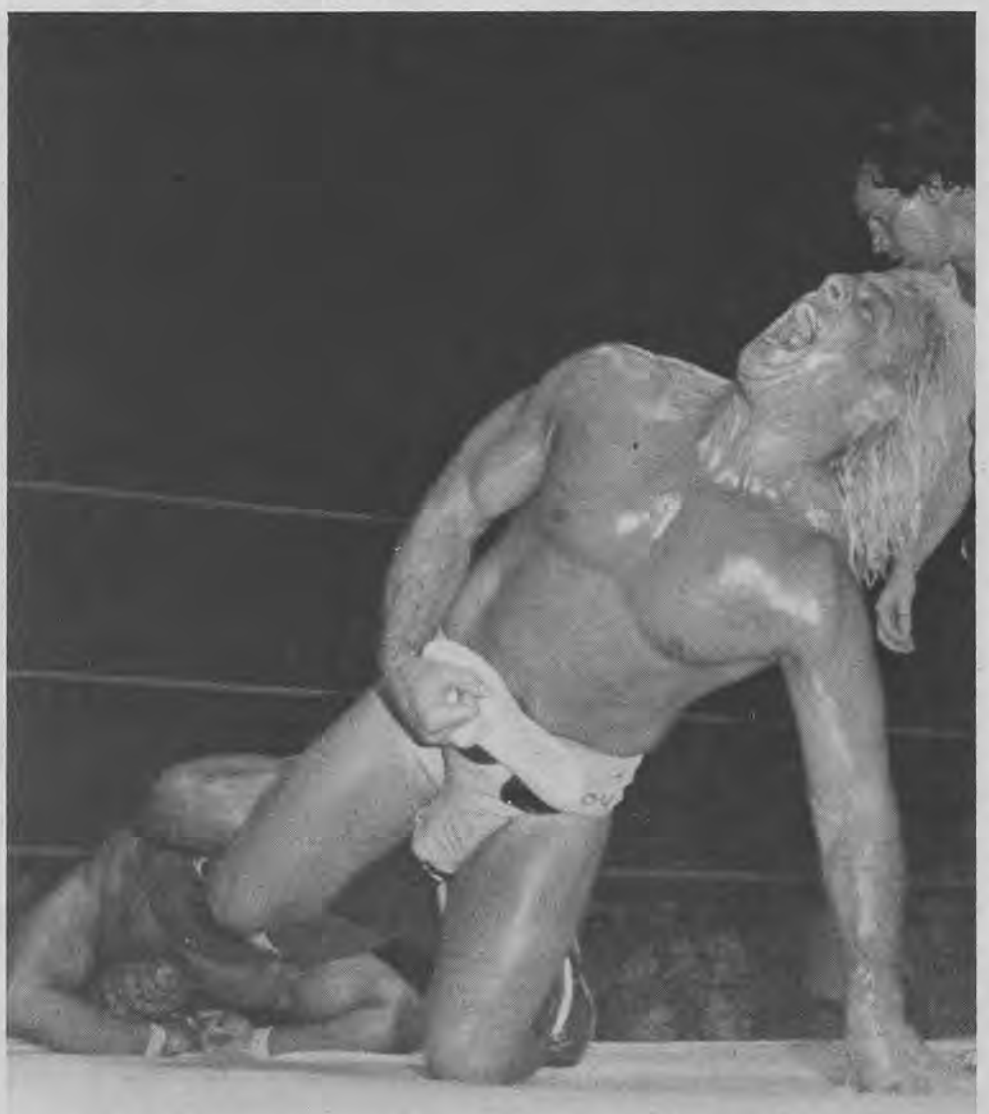
Bouncing off of the ropes, Reed was preparing to move in for the pin. As he drove toward the fallen Flair, however, the champion hoisted his legs into the air and sent Reed flying through the ropes and onto the concrete floor outside of the ring.

Flair followed, and the contest began to take on a new measure of brutality. As if he were exacting revenge for the public humiliation of being pinned on television, Flair attacked his opponent with rage and fury.

But Reed showed a lot of heart. He answered Flair blow for blow, allowing no respite for the weary champion.

The timekeeper's bell rang out a dozen or more times. The official's decision had been made: double-disqualification. Hacksaw Butch Reed had pushed Ric Flair to the brink of insanity. Ric Flair had retained the belt, but at what cost? Reed had proved twice in a row that he was capable of matching Flair move for move, if not actually pinning him to the mat for the three count.

As for Ric Flair. . . well, it was just one of those days. □

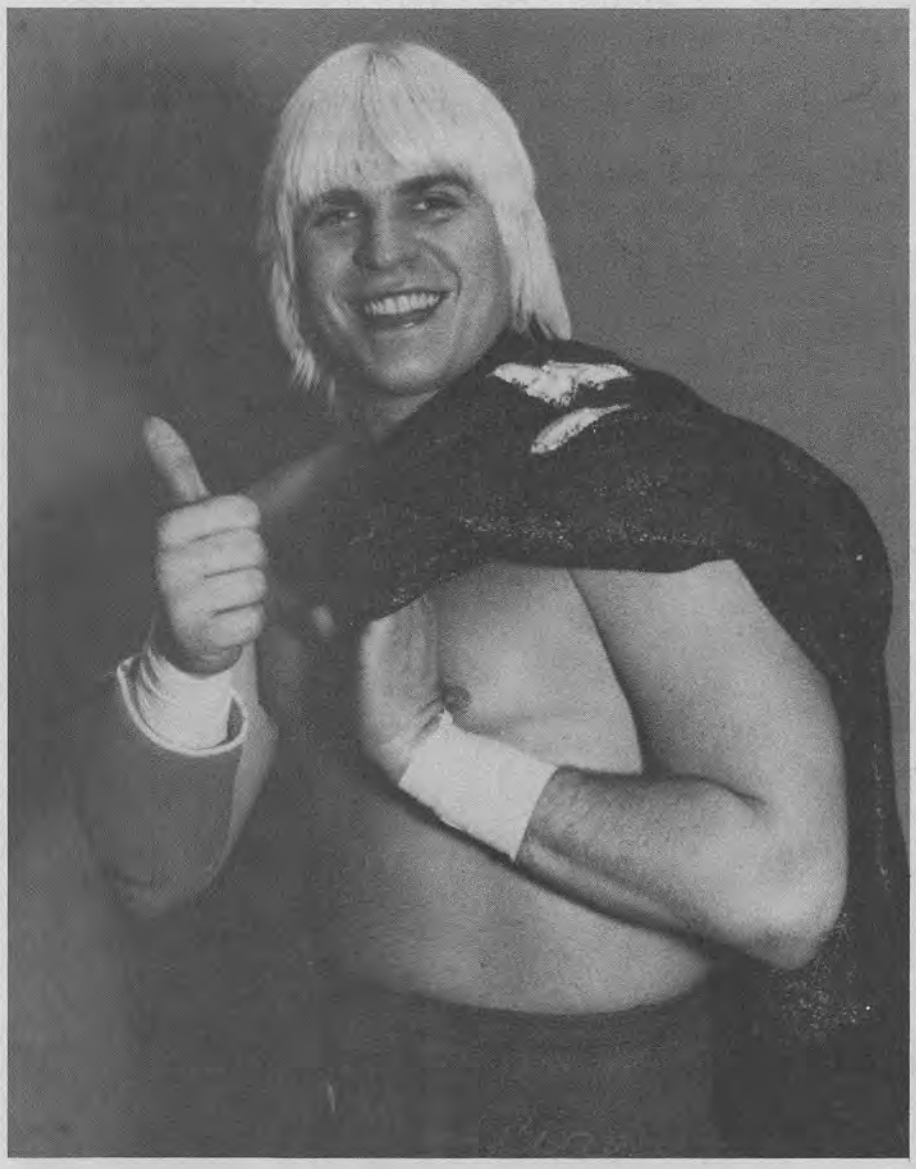


Flair lets out a scream as he tries to snap his challenger's ankle. The NWA champion would later regret asking for an overtime session.

TOMMY "WILDFIRE" RICH:

THE BURNING DESIRE IS BACK

By Craig Peters



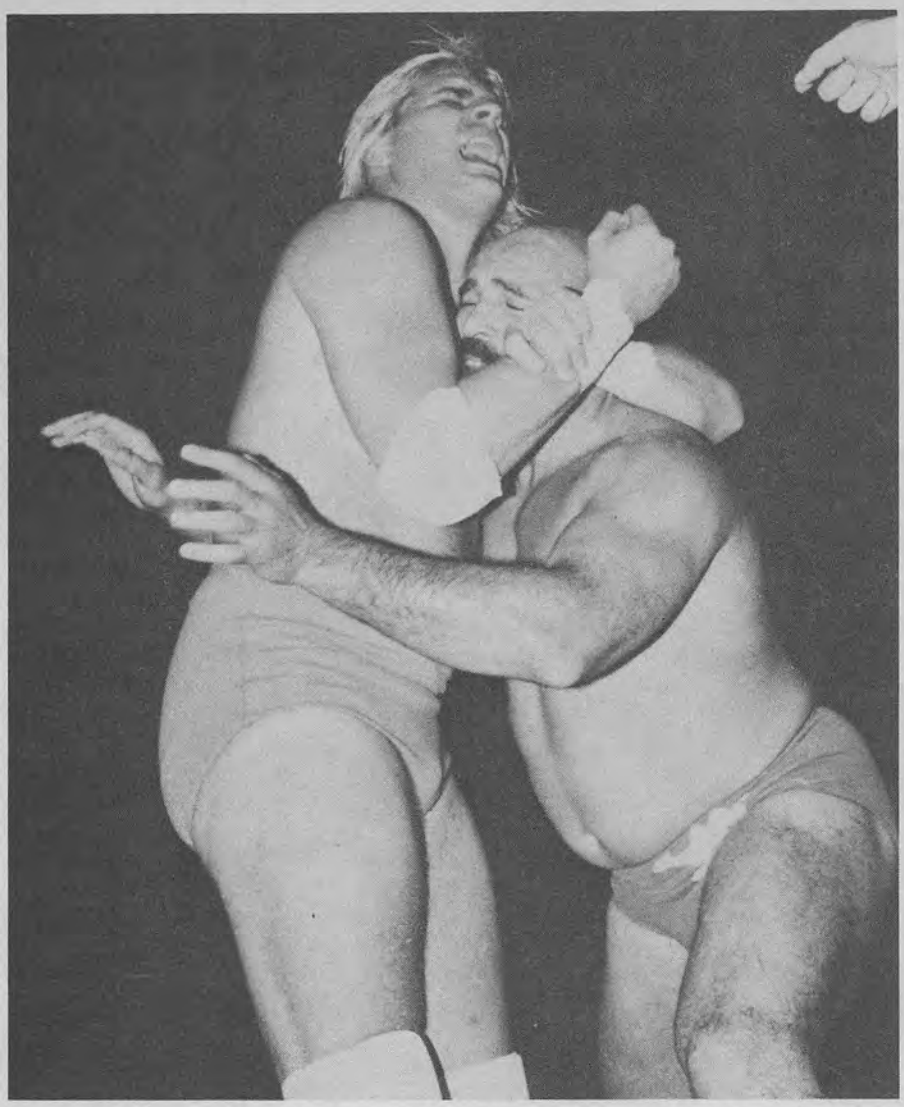
I COULD HARDLY believe that I was going to be interviewing Tommy "Wildfire" Rich. Not because he is one of the most well-known and loved wrestlers in the entire sport; after years of involvement with the sport's celebrities, fame like Wildfire's just doesn't excite me anymore.

No, the excitement came from the mere fact that I was interviewing Rich at all. I had been trying to secure an interview with Tommy for a long time, but it always seemed as if he had another match with Buzz Sawyer to deal with first.

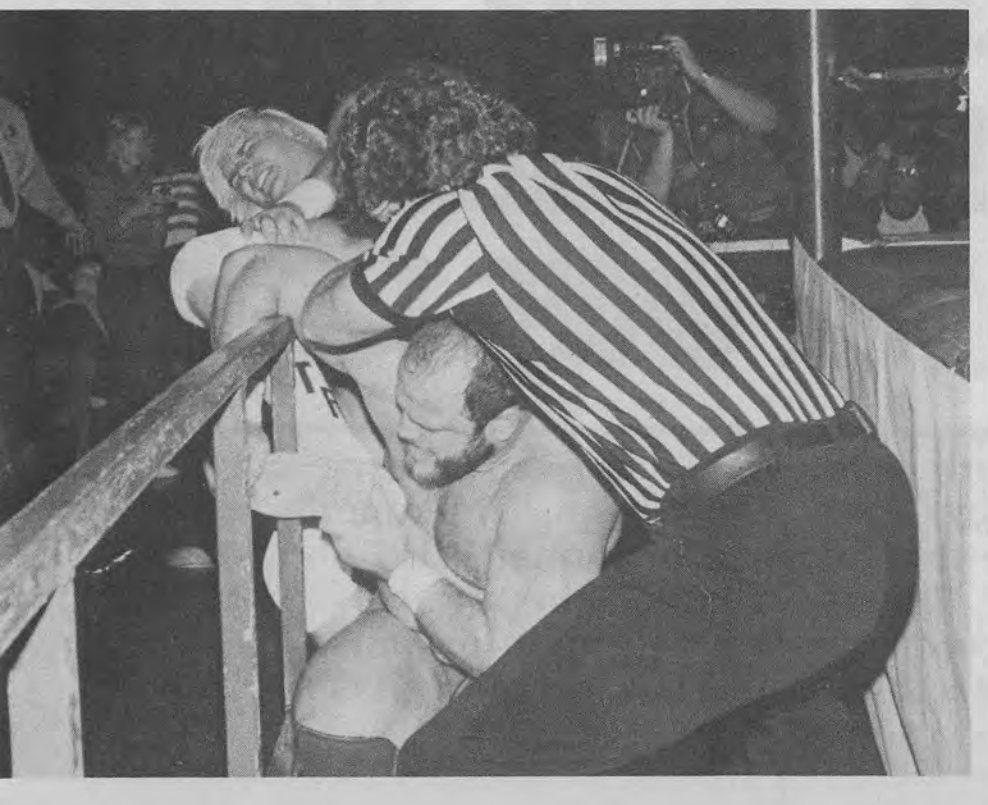
Like everyone else who follows wrestling, I watched as Tommy battled Buzz Sawyer again and again. I watched and wondered if the moments of fleeting satisfaction he got from the war were really worth the price of constant punishment and inhuman bloodshed.

When I arived in Atlanta several hours prior to a taping of *World Championship Wrestling*, I wondered if Tommy would still be so wound up in his feud that all he would want to talk about would be Sawyer. I didn't want to travel hundreds of miles to hear what I've

For well over six months, Tommy Rich and Buzz Sawyer have been at war. Finally, after all the bloodshed and sneak-attacks, a light has appeared at the end of the tunnel: "Wildfire" has declared that he is tired of feuding with Sawyer and wants to get back to a normal wrestling career

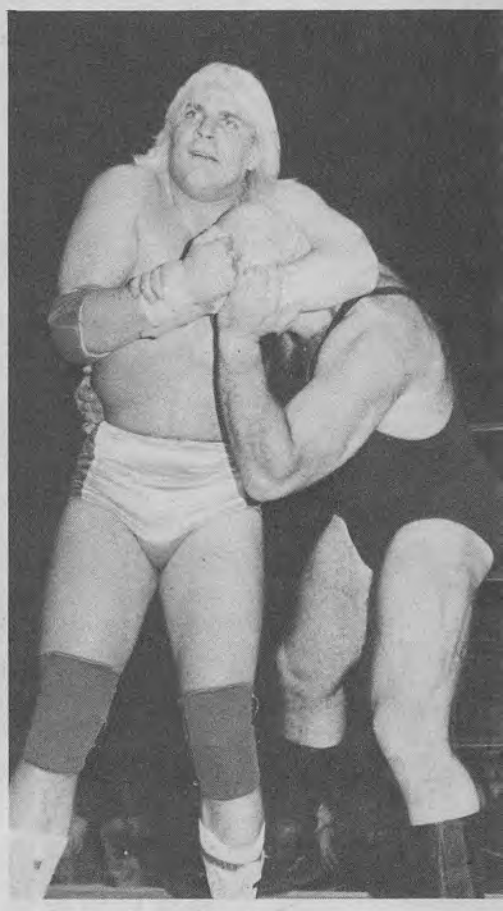


Rich applies pressure on the heads of Hussein Arab (above) and Ivan Koloff (right). Tommy's feud with Buzz Sawyer blossomed into an obsession (below).



been hearing for six months, that Tommy is going to destroy Buzz Sawyer, no matter the cost.

As I sat in one of the *World Championship Wrestling* conference rooms awaiting Tommy's arrival, I thought about the battle that has gripped Wildfire so long.



I can understand Tommy's hatred for Sawyer, but I can't understand why he has continued to devote so much of his time to Sawyer at the cost of his own career. Because of his feud with Sawyer, Tommy has slipped out of the NWA ratings for several months, lost several opportunities at title shots with NWA champion Ric Flair, and has severely damaged his reputation as a scientific wrestler.

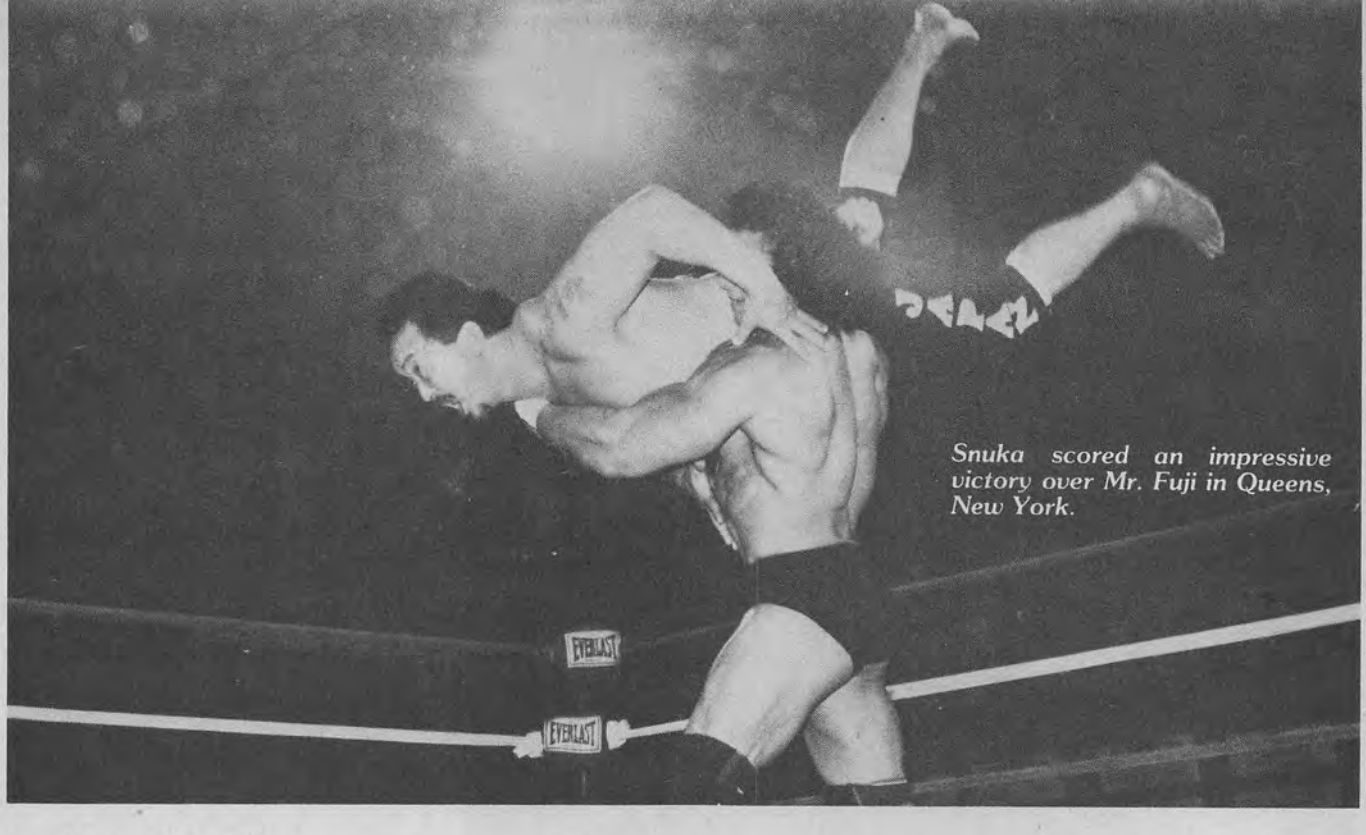
My thoughts were interrupted by the sound of the doorknob turning. Tommy was arriving for our interview.

Dressed smartly in a chocolate-brown three-piece suit, Tommy looked very fashionable—until I noticed the deep scars on his forehead, scars incurred during his

(Continued on page 54)

SHOULD JIMMY SNUKA BE GIVEN ANOTHER SHOT AT THE WWF TITLE?

Jimmy Snuka's tenure in the WWF has been an exciting one. Formerly managed by Captain Lou Albano, "The Superfly" now gains support from the guidance of former WWF and NWA champion Buddy Rogers. Some think Rogers should concentrate on securing another title shot for Snuka against Bob Backlund; others think Snuka has had enough chances to win the belt. What do you think?



Snuka scored an impressive victory over Mr. Fuji in Queens, New York.

THE CAREER OF Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka has been the hottest issue in professional wrestling over the past year.

Entering the WWF under the management of Captain Lou Albano, Snuka quickly rose up the ladder of contention and was given several shots at Bob Backlund's heavyweight championship.

It quickly became apparent that Snuka was a wrestler of uncommon talents, a man who had all the potential and skills necessary to capture any championship.

There was, however, unrest in the Albano stable. Snuka was unhappy with the way he was being managed. He felt Albano wasn't handling his career

( ) YES! Jimmy Snuka deserves another chance to win Bob Backlund's WWF championship.

( ) NO! Jimmy Snuka has had enough opportunities to capture the WWF belt.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: _____

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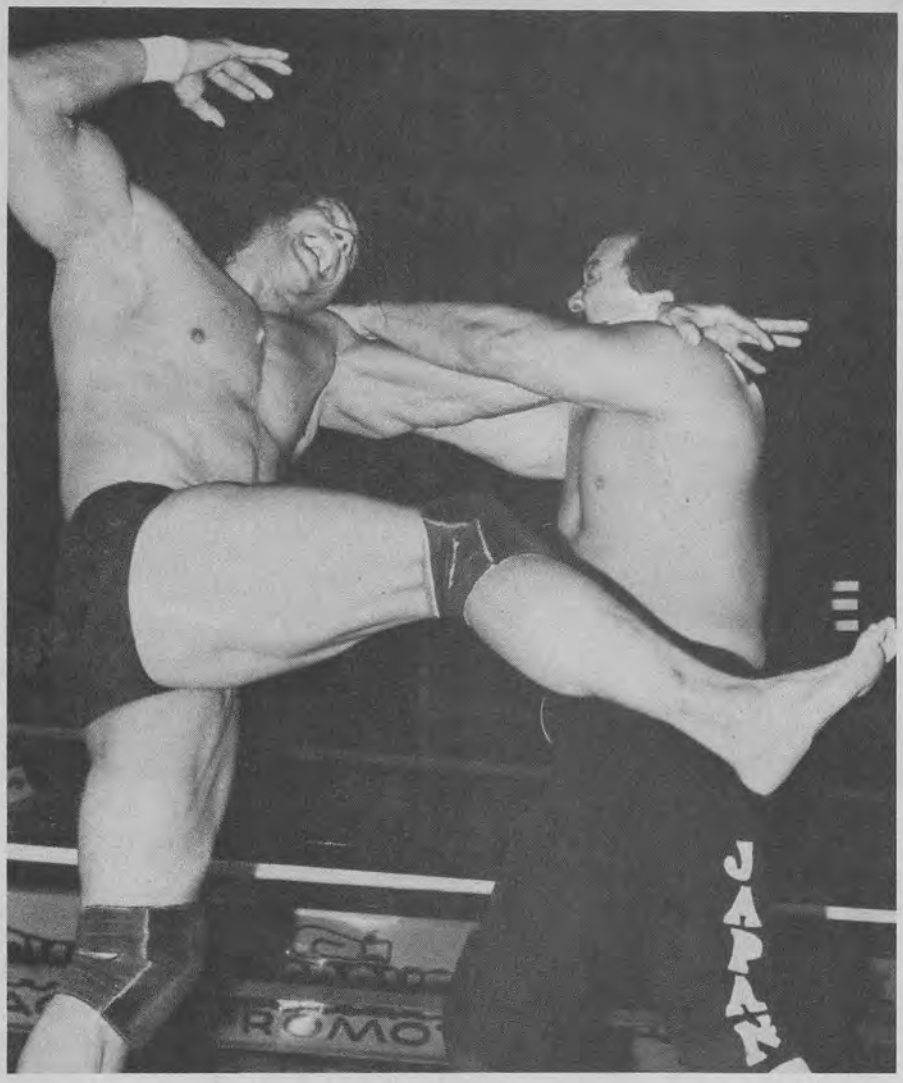

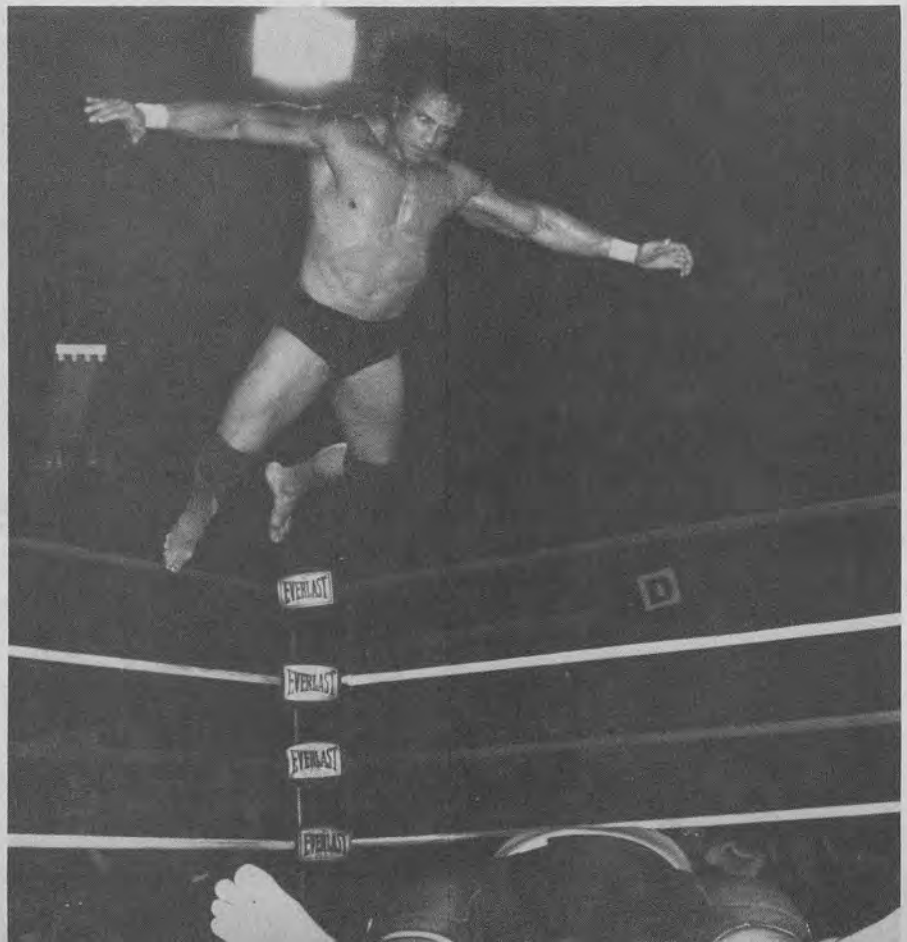

Snuka lifts his right leg to add leverage to a karate thrust thrown at Fuji (above). The Superfly springs from the turnbuckles, focusing his eyes on the fallen Fuji (right). Snuka has been steamrolling over every opponent set before him.

properly, and he knew (though he still lacked concrete evidence) that Albano was mismanaging his funds.

During this time, the wrestling fans began to notice a subtle change in Snuka's style. The Superfly began making clean breaks on his opponents during matches, and the fans responded favorably. Albano was thoroughly disgusted at this turn of events, and tensions between manager and wrestler grew thicker. But Snuka was contractually tied to Albano . . . or so everyone thought.

Fortunately for Jimmy Snuka, Buddy Rogers, The Superfly's manager of three years ago, came to the WWF.

As host of an interview segment, "Rogers' Corner," on televised WWF wrestling, Buddy Rogers interviewed Albano several times. He did not like the way Albano was treating his former wrestler. Taking it upon himself to investigate Snuka's contract with Albano, Rogers discovered that the contract was not binding.

In other words, The Superfly was a free man, able to go where he wanted to go, do what he wanted to do, wrestle whom he wanted to wrestle . . . without the interference of Captain Lou Albano.

But by this time, Snuka's contracts to wrestle Backlund, written up while he was still being managed by Albano, had all been fulfilled.

Snuka asked Buddy Rogers to once again be his manager, and the former NWA and WWF champion agreed.

To his credit, Rogers has done a fine job of getting important matches for Snuka. In particular, Rogers has been instrumental in signing for Snuka several

In what most observers agree was the most daring maneuver ever attempted in pro wrestling, Snuka dove at WWF champion Bob Backlund from the top of the 15-foot-high steel cage last June (above). The Superfly bodyslams Backlund (below). Should Snuka be given another chance to wrestle for the title?

"revenge" matches against Albano and Ray "The Crippler" Stevens, who combined to sneak-attack and hospitalize The Superfly. Snuka, however, has not been mentioned in discussions of future challengers for Backlund's WWF title. The editors of *PWI* hold Rogers partially responsible for this. Despite the fact that Snuka has already had several title shots, we have various reasons for wanting to see Snuka and Backlund wrestle each other once again.

• When Snuka wrestled Backlund for the title several months ago, he was a much different wrestler than he is today. He was struggling with the burden of having Lou Albano as a manager, a man who was clearly directing Snuka toward a future that worked against his own best interests.

• The culmination of the Backlund-Snuka wars was a Cage Match. While exciting, the outcome of that Cage Match was highly controversial. Many ringside observers felt that the referee outside the cage held the door shut when Snuka attempted to escape the cage moments before the conclusion.

• The WWF in general, and Bob Backlund in particular, seems to avoid scientific challenges to the heavyweight title. The overwhelming majority of Backlund's opponents have been rule-breakers. Now that Snuka has escaped the clutches of Albano and wrestles strictly by the rules under the guidance of Buddy Rogers, a match with Backlund for the title would be a rare treat for every fan.

• Quite simply, Snuka is the most skilled wrestler in the WWF outside of perhaps Backlund himself. While the match schedules for the next few months, the arrival of Magnificent Muraco and Big John Studd, and the continual reshuffling of competition in the federation has kept Snuka out of the number one contention spot, he still remains one of the area's top wrestlers. He would be an opponent worthy of challenging the five-year title reign of Bob Backlund.

In light of all these facts, the editors of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* feel it is time for the fans to speak out.

Consider the history of Jimmy Snuka in the WWF. Consider the talents and skills of both Snuka and Bob Backlund. But also consider the fact Snuka has already had several opportunities: Should Jimmy Snuka be given another shot at the WWF title?

The eyes of the wrestling world are on the fans right now. Make your decision now and cast your ballot immediately. The results, to be presented in the July 1983 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* (on sale April 19), could affect the future of Jimmy Snuka and the entire WWF. □

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MEET THE AUTHORS

GAVIN FROST, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.D., is Archbishop of the Church of Wicca, New Bern, North Carolina with national headquarters in Salem, Missouri, branches in several states and worldwide membership. He is Marshal of the Gold Star of England, with the right to wear the Saffron Robe and one of the very few Witches in the Western Hemisphere privileged to wear the authentic mark of initiation on his wrist. Although descended from a long line of mystics and scholars, and formerly a Vice-President and Director of International Operations for major aerospace companies, he prefers to be thought of as a humble teacher.

Mrs. YVONNE FROST, A.A., D.D., with her husband Gavin Frost, devotes her time to giving private instruction and publishing *Survival*, the newsletter of the Church of Wicca, of which she is a Bishop.

Articles by or about Gavin and Yvonne Frost have appeared in such national publications as *Midnight* and the *National Enquirer*.

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Introduction

(Continued from page 6)

Mil Mascaras wanted you to write and tell him if a world title shot was worth compromising his ring ethics.

Mil Mascaras' Home Address: How You Can Write To Him And Save His Career. Mascaras happily reported to us that the response from his fans was enormous. It was also very supportive: Mascaras followed the collective dictate of his fans and retained his uniquely scientific style. And by the way, you can still write to Mascaras at that address to let him know how you feel about his continued success.

Chaz Fenn, Assistant Editor: *I have family in England, and I would go so far as to say that Ric Flair's reputation is as strong there as it is here in the States. He's a great champion, no question about that. And one of his classic matches was when he almost lost his title to a man who was, at that time, virtually unknown. Flair learned to respect him very quickly!*

Indeed he did. Our August 1982 issue examined the question, **Beginning Of The End? Ric Flair Falls To An Unknown Contender.** The "unknown contender" was Butch Reed, a man who has given Flair many tough challenges over the past few years.

(Continued on page 52)

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The back issues available in this ad are the top of our line. All of these magazines contain a color section, and many were newsstand sellouts. They are priced at only $3.00 each, so don't delay, order today.

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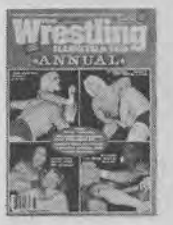

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WINTER/83

SPRING/84

SUMMER/84

FALL/84

WRESTLING SUPERSTARS

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FALL/83

Color Action Gallery: Jimmy Snuka

WINTER/83

Color Action Gallery: Tommy Rich

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Color Action Gallery: Hulk Hogan

SUMMER/84

Color Action Gallery: Andre the Giant

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Color Action Gallery: Billy Jack

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Color features include: Martel, Freebirds Warriors, Bundy

WINTER/84

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Introduction

(Continued from page 50)

Craig Peters, Assistant Editor: *I'll never forget the sight of a bloody Tommy Rich. I saw it a lot during his seemingly endless feud with Buzz Sawyer. When that feud was finally over, Tommy's attitude changed. It was like he was finally getting down to business. I was glad to write that story about him.*

That story, printed in our July 1983 issue, was **Tommy "Wildfire" Rich: The Burning Desire Is Back**. It was widely acknowledged that Rich's feud with Sawyer was holding him back. Finally, the feud was over and "Wildfire's" career could begin anew.

Peter King, Editor-in-Chief: *Perhaps the most important story we printed in 1983 was the fan poll for Jimmy Snuka. Many people thought that Snuka deserved another shot at then-WWF champion Bob Backlund. We took the question to the fans, and they responded as they've never responded to a fan poll since we began publishing* PWI *back in 1979.*

The May 1983 issue of *PWI* included **Special Fan Ballot: Should Jimmy Snuka Be Given Another Shot at The WWF Title?** The results of the poll were printed in our July 1983 issue: Over 55,000 ballots were received, with 95 percent of the fans coming out in favor of a rematch. Unfortunately for the fans who wanted that match, the WWF officials and commissioners never sanctioned another contest between Backlund and Snuka. In this issue of *PWI Annual,* you have the chance to vote again.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *PWI Annual.* It's an invaluable look at the panorama of wrestling history as seen though the pages of wrestling's number one magazine. And we hope to see you again in three months when we will be back at your newsstand with the Summer 1985 issue of *PWI Annual.* Don't miss it! □

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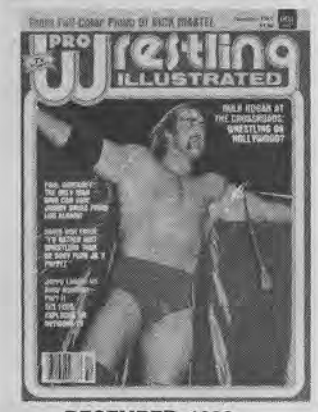


DECEMBER 1982

July 1980/COLOR STARSHOT: The Sheik. Cover story: Bruno Sammartino. PLUS: Wrestling II, Race, Ladd, Albano.

August 1980/COLOR STARSHOT: Koloff and Smirnoff. Cover story: Bruno vs. Zbyszko. PLUS: Idol, Von Erichs, Rhodes, Hogan.

October 1981/COLOR POSTER: Ted DiBiase. Cover story: Rhodes vs. Piper. PLUS: Backlund, Brody, Mascaras, Rich.

May 1982/COLOR POSTER: Ric Flair. Cover story: Wrestling II vs. Spoiler. PLUS: Mulligan Jr., Backlund, McDaniel, Piper.

June 1982/COLOR POSTER: Nick Bockwinkel. Cover story: Adonis & Ventura. PLUS: Snuka, Patera, Blassie, Flair.

August 1982/COLOR POSTER: Dino Bravo. Cover story: Steamboat & Rich. PLUS: Andre, Martel, Piper, Blassie.

September 1982/COLOR POSTER: Blackjack Mulligan Jr. Cover story: Tommy Rich. PLUS: Piper, Snuka, Von Erich, Martel.

October 1982/COLOR POSTER: Jerry Lawler. Cover story: Ric Flair. PLUS: Rhodes, Graham, Race, Funk Jr.

December 1982/COLOR POSTER: Rick Martel. Cover story: Hulk Hogan. PLUS: Von Erich, Orndorff, Reed, Albano.

January 1983/COLOR POSTER: Ken Patera. Cover story: Rick Steamboat. PLUS: Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

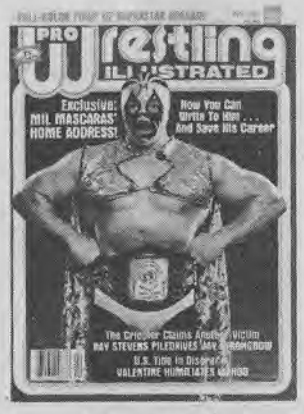
February 1983/COLOR POSTER: Ivan Putski. Cover story: Rhodes vs. Garvin. PLUS: Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

April 1983/COLOR POSTER: Superstar Graham. Cover story: Mil Mascaras. PLUS: Valentine, Hansen, Orndorff, Hart.

June 1983/COLOR POSTER: Cowboy Bob Orton. Cover story: Rick Martel. PLUS: Brisco, Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

July 1983/COLOR POSTER: Ivan Koloff. Cover story: Tommy Rich. PLUS: Patera, Von Erich, Snuka, Geigel.

August 1983/COLOR POSTER: Larry Zbyszko. Cover story: Roddy Piper. PLUS: Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.



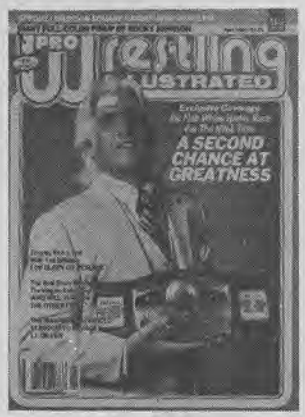
APRIL 1983

October 1983/COLOR POSTER: Junkyard Dog. Cover story: Tommy Rich. PLUS: Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

November 1983/COLOR POSTER: Roddy Piper. Cover story: Harley Race. PLUS: Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR POSTER: Wahoo McDaniel. Cover story: Dusty Rhodes. PLUS: Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

January 1984/COLOR POSTER: Harley Race. Cover story: Rick Martel. PLUS: Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.



APRIL 1984

February 1984/COLOR POSTER: Jim Garvin & Sunshine. Cover story: Greg Valentine. PLUS: Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

April 1984/COLOR POSTER: Rocky Johnson. Cover story: Ric Flair. PLUS: Hogan, Andre, Rich, Bundy.

May 1984/COLOR POSTER: Hacksaw Butch Reed. Cover story: Hulk Hogan. PLUS: Road Warriors, Fabulous Ones, Flair, Rotundo.

June 1984/COLOR POSTER: Dick Slater. Cover story: Ted DiBiase. PLUS: Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, One Man Gang, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR POSTER: Paul Ellering. Cover story: Jimmy Valiant. PLUS: Junkyard Dog, Fabulous Ones, Gagne, Windham.

August 1984/COLOR POSTER: Stan Hansen. Cover story: Jerry Lawler. PLUS: Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell, Flair.

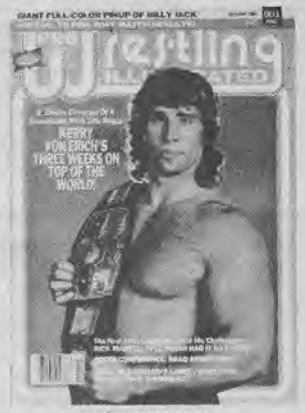
September 1984/COLOR POSTER: Hulk Hogan. Cover story: The Road Warriors. SPECIAL FIFTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE—A Look Back At Wrestling In The *PWI* Years.

October 1984/COLOR POSTER: Billy Jack. Cover story: Kerry Von Erich. PLUS: Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR POSTER: Rick Martel. Cover story: Sgt. Slaughter. PLUS: Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

December 1984/COLOR POSTER: Kerry Von Erich. Cover story: Barry Windham. PLUS: Rich, Martel, McDaniel, WWF-NWA TV war.

January 1985/COLOR POSTER: Tito Santana. Cover story: Road Warriors. PLUS: Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.



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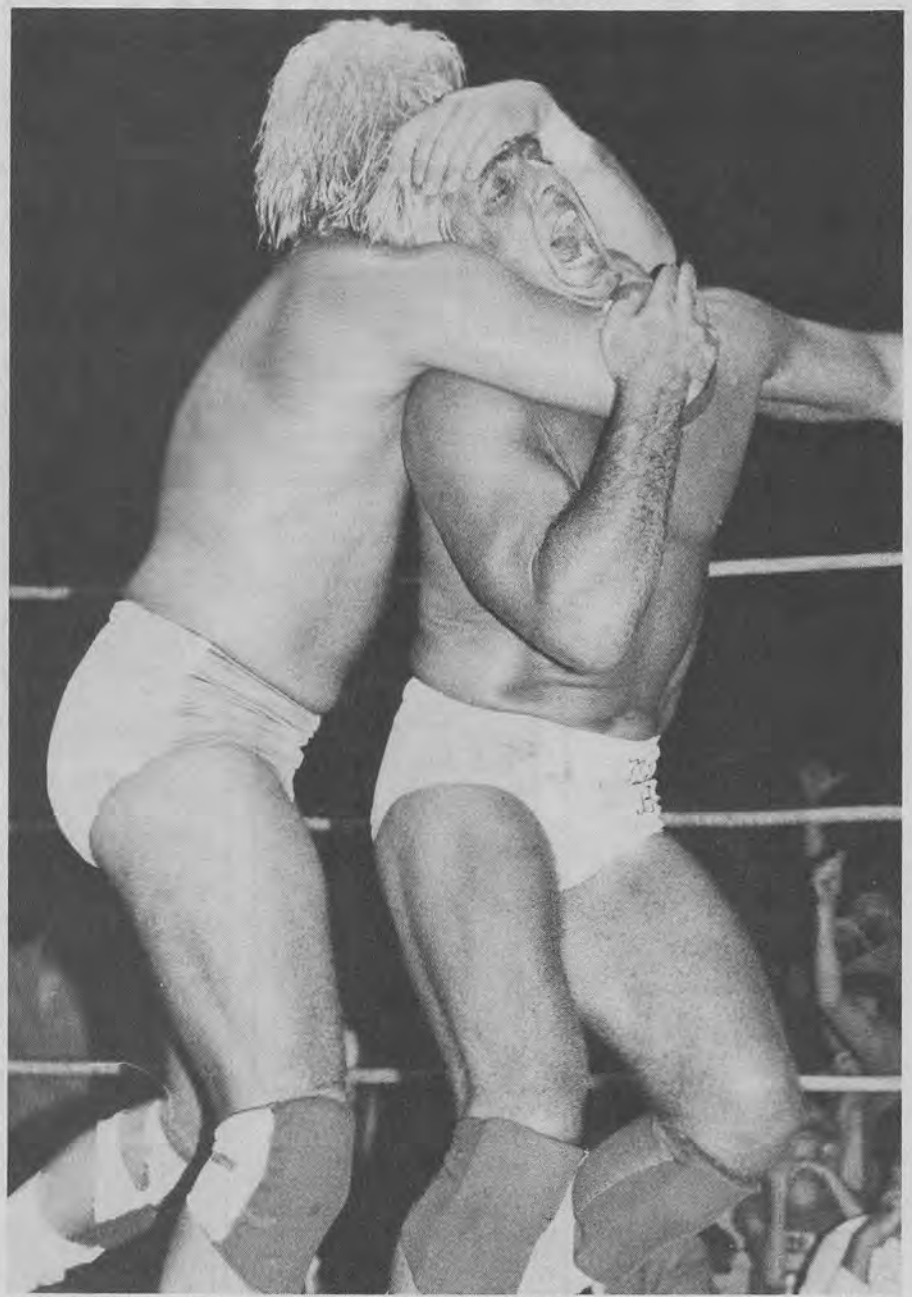
Tommy Rich

(Continued from page 43)



Choosing to concentrate on his grudge with Sawyer, Rich has passed up several opportunities to wrestle against NWA champion Ric Flair. Tommy has finally realized how much that feud has hurt his career.

months of battle against Sawyer. Tommy smiled when he greeted me and shook my hand. Tommy's hand was rough and calloused, another sign of battle.

"I'm glad you were able to make the trip, Craig," Tommy said as he sat down. I told him it was my pleasure, and we engaged in small talk for a little while. After about 20 minutes, I had to ask him the question that simply would not leave my mind.

"Tommy, I've been trying to get a hold of you to talk for a long time. Why now? What's different with you now than, say, two months ago? From what I can tell, you're still obsessed with Buzz Sawyer."

Tommy was silent for about a minute. I could tell he was struck by my directness and candor. His eyebrows wrinkled, and he began his explanation.

"I've had it with Buzz Sawyer,"

he said abruptly, "that's all there is to it." There was an anger in Tommy's eyes as he spoke about Sawyer, an anger that was complemented by a weariness in his voice.

"Sawyer has gone too far and too long with what he's been going in Georgia," Tommy said, "and frankly, I'm glad that I have some men in the area who are helping me with the Mad Dog. We managed to drive Ivan Koloff out of the area. Now Paul Orndorff, Butch Reed, Stan Hansen, Masked Superstar, Tony Atlas, and my cousin Johnny have told me to take some time off from the war to concentrate on my career. They have promised to concentrate on Sawyer.

"And I'm glad I have so much help now," Rich continued. "I'm sick and tired of having to look over my shoulder every five minutes to see if Sawyer's sneaking up on me. I'm sick of seeing his ugly face staring at me from the other side of the ring.

"Let me tell you," Tommy said, "it hurt me when I saw that my name had dropped out of the NWA ratings and it hurt when I got all those letters from my fans pleading with me to forget about Sawyer for the sake of my career and my health."

Rich leaned forward in his chair as if to make sure that I was paying attention to every word he said; that was one worry that should never have entered his mind. "I want to get back in contention, I want to get back on the road again, I want to wrestle Ric Flair again, and I want to wear that NWA belt again!"

Tommy raised a clenched fist in the air in front of his face. It was vibrating from the raw power and burning desire to once again wrestle a man like Ric Flair for one of the sport's most coveted awards.

"I want out of this feud, and I want to get my career moving again," Wildfire said. "I've got hopes and desires just like any other man

(Continued on page 56)

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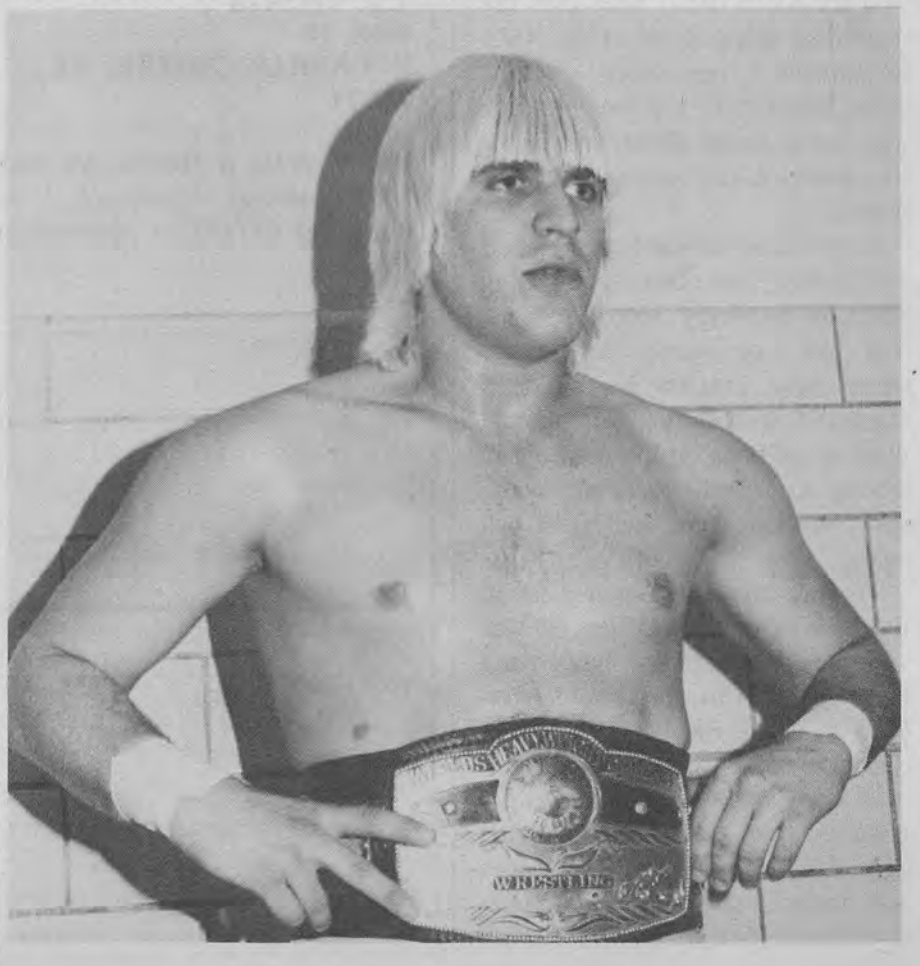
American Heart Association
WE'RE FIGHTING FOR YOUR LIFE

Tommy Rich

(Continued from page 55)

Rich looks out upon the cheering masses as he applies a painful hammerlock on Flair (above) and an armbar on Super Destroyer (opposite page). Wildfire, having reestablished his goals, would like to wear the NWA belt once again, as he proudly did during his week-long reign two yeras ago (below).



in wrestling, only my hopes and desires have been smothered by that Mad Dog scum Sawyer. No longer, brother, no more. I want to get back into action, back into contention, and back where my fans don't have to worry about whether Sawyer's going to bust my head open with a brick. That's what I want, and I want you, Craig, to bring that message to the fans for me."

So that's why it was so easy to get an interview with Tommy Rich. I sat back and listened as Tommy continued to talk. I just sat back in my chair, smiled, and said to myself, "Of course, Tommy, I'll be more than glad to bring your message to the fans."

Then I smiled again, thinking how glad the fans will be to hear that Tommy "Wildfire" Rich is back. Not the Tommy Rich obsessed with Buzz Sawyer, but the Tommy Rich who competes for the sake of sportsmanship and achievement, who desires to capture the NWA title for a second time, and who looks to the fans for strength and support as his career proudly moves ahead.

Glad to have you back, Tommy. □

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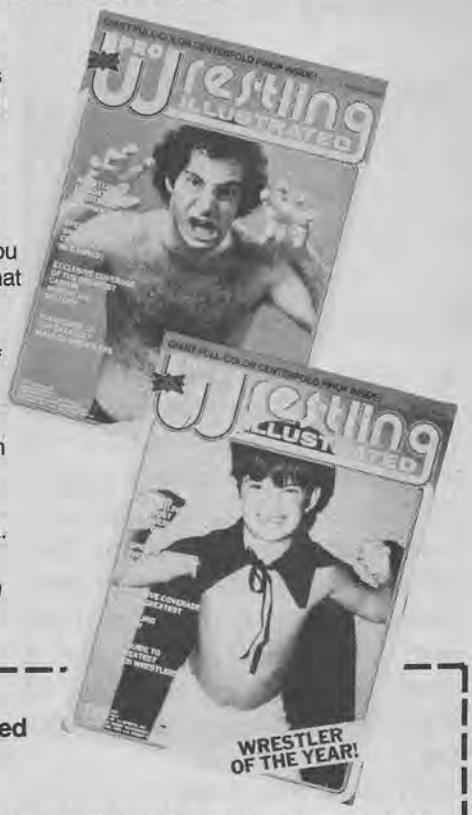

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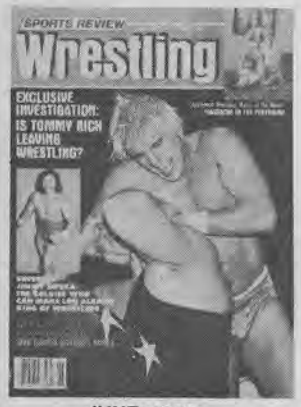


JUNE 1982

January 1977/Cover stories: Funk, Bruno. PLUS: Ladd, Abdullah, Mascaras, Stasiak.

February 1978/Cover stories: Rhodes, Andre. PLUS: Gagne, Funk, Maivia, Bockwinkel.

March 1978/Cover stories: Andre-Flair, Mascaras. PLUS: Koloff, Rhodes, Inoki.

August 1979/Cover story: Bruno-Koloff. PLUS: Flair, Orndorff, Funk.

September 1979/Cover story: Flair-McDaniel. PLUS: Garvin, Ladd, Rhodes.

October 1979/Cover stories: Rhodes, McDaniel-Spoiler. PLUS: Steamboat, Slater, Hernandez.

December 1979/Cover story: Brisco-Spoiler. PLUS: Snuka, Andre, Mascaras.

January 1980/Cover stories: Albano-Andre, Flair-Jones. PLUS: Race, Graham, Valiant.

February 1980/Cover story: Rhodes-Funk. PLUS: Race, Spoiler, Brisco.

April 1980/Cover stories: Andre, Mulligan-Studd. PLUS: LeDuc, Lawler, Ladd.

May 1980/Cover stories: Koloff-Anderson, Brody-Spoiler. PLUS: Graham, Andre.

June 1980/Cover stories: Graham, Patera. PLUS: Rhodes, Lawler, Zbyszko.

July 1980/Cover story: Bruno-Graham. PLUS: Samoans, McGraw, Star Wars 1980.

October 1980/Cover story: Hogan. PLUS: Flair, Wrestling II, Super D.

January 1981/Cover story: Morales-Fuji. PLUS: Zbyszko, Thornton, Keirn.

March 1981/Cover story: SPECIAL EDITION—Results of 1980 Fan Poll

April 1981/Cover story: Atlas. PLUS: Flair, Moondogs, Wrestling II.

June 1981/Cover stories: Morales-Khan. PLUS: Lawler, Slater, Piper.

August 1981/Cover story: Freebirds. PLUS: Mascaras, Wrestling II, Brisco.

September 1981/Cover story: Backlund-Mosca. PLUS: Freebirds, Flair, Rich, JYD.

October 1981/Cover stories: Rich-Race, Hogan-Hansen. PLUS: Moondogs, Freebirds, Putski-Koloff.

November 1981/Cover story: Rhodes-DiBiase. PLUS: Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler.

December 1981/Cover story: Muraco-Morales. PLUS: Patera, Steele, Superstar, Andre.

January 1982/Cover story: Backlund-Muraco. PLUS: Blassie, Andre, Rhodes, Blanchard.

March 1982/Cover stories: Valentine, Brisco-Funk. PLUS: Putski, Steele, Flair, Hayes.

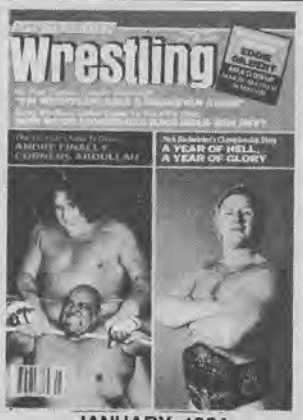
April 1982/Cover stories: Spoiler, Idol-Hayes. PLUS: Morales, Super Destroyer, Ladd.

May 1982/Cover story: Rich-Flair. PLUS: Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.

June 1982/Cover stories: Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka. PLUS: Wrestlers rate each other.

July 1982/Cover stories: Steamboat-Idol, Albano. PLUS: Rhodes, Lawler, Patera.

August 1982/Cover stories: Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater. PLUS: Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel.



JANUARY 1984

September 1982/Cover stories: Von Erich, Bockwinkel. PLUS: Mascaras, Hansen, Rhodes, Blassie.

October 1982/Cover story: Funk-Abdullah. PLUS: Orton, Kabuki, Von Erich.

November 1982/Cover story: Piper. PLUS: Abdullah, Saito, Armstrong, Von Erich.

December 1982/Cover stories: Backlund-Rose, Rhodes-Flair. PLUS: Albano, Humperdink.

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May 1983/Cover story: Muraco. PLUS: Dillon, Sullivan, Reed, Brisco.

June 1983/Cover stories: Piper, Bockwinkel-Patterson. PLUS: Brody, Sullivan.

July 1983/Cover story: Valiant-Humperdink. PLUS: Martel, Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong.

October 1983/Cover stories: Martel-Valentine, Mulligan. PLUS: Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.

November 1983/Cover stories: Andre-Mulligan, Kamala-Brody. PLUS: Slater, Wrestling II, Backlund.

December 1983/Cover story: Windham-LeDuc. PLUS: Santana, Sullivan, Garvin.

January 1984/Cover stories: Andre-Abdullah, Bockwinkel. PLUS: Gilbert, Windham, Flair.

February 1984/Cover stories: Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen. PLUS: Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.

March 1984/Cover story: Starrcade '83 featuring Flair, Steamboat & Youngblood, Piper-Valentine. PLUS: Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.

April 1984/Cover stories: Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki. PLUS: Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff.

May 1984/Cover stories: LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins. PLUS: The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!

June 1984/Cover stories: Windham-Flair, Gilbert. PLUS: Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.

July 1984/Cover stories: Flair-Gordy. PLUS: Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA Tag team tournament.

August 1984/Cover stories: Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes. PLUS: Zbyszko, Von Erich, The Faces Of Wrestling.

September 1984/Cover stories: Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two championship cards.

October 1984/Cover stories: Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video. PLUS: Atlas, Spoiler, historic Orange Bowl card.

November 1984/Cover story: Von Erich & Billy Jack. PLUS: Andre, Fabulous Ones, The Summer Wars!

December 1984/Cover stories: Rich-Gilbert, Martel. PLUS: Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class action weekend.

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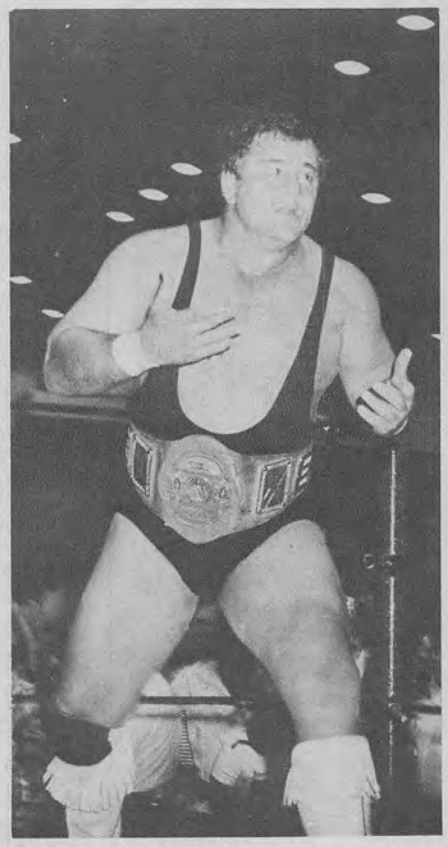
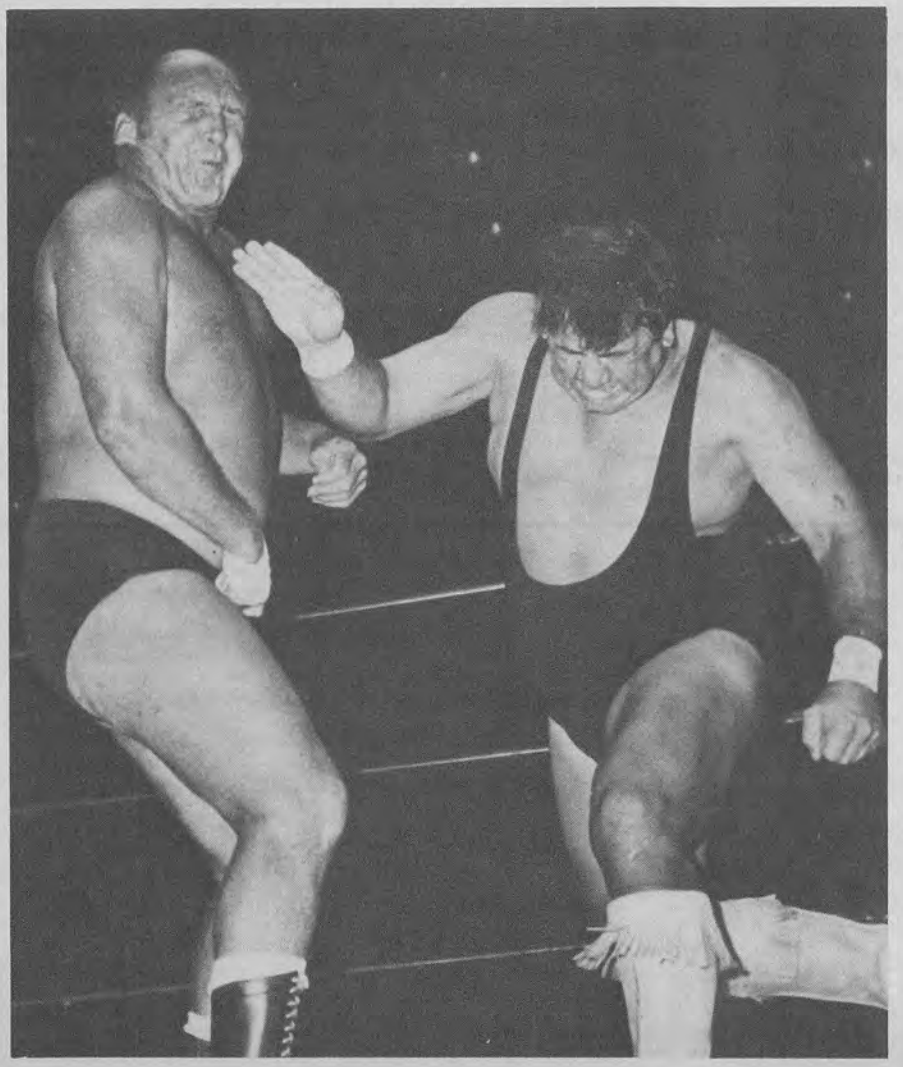
Wahoo McDaniel

(Continued from page 15)





McDaniel and Crusher were once a successful tag team (above left), but they never received fair press. McDaniel brawls with an expert, Killer Karl Kox (left). Wahoo has been a regional champion (above right).

and accomplishments.

And then there are those like Wahoo McDaniel.

"Yeah, me," Wahoo said.

These men have merited attention, both in and out of the ring. They share violent dignity few can attain.

They are popular, they are tough. They deserve acclaim.

"Damn straight I do."

Then talk to us. Remember, we are only the connection for the fans. We are the rod through which this harshly sensitive flow must pass. Love and hate. Disdain and affection. Without the press, the bridge cannot be erected.

So talk to us, Wahoo. We're not villains. We know the fans want to read about you. Let's establish a positive relationship.

"Okay, I'll give it a try,' McDaniel concluded. So will we. □

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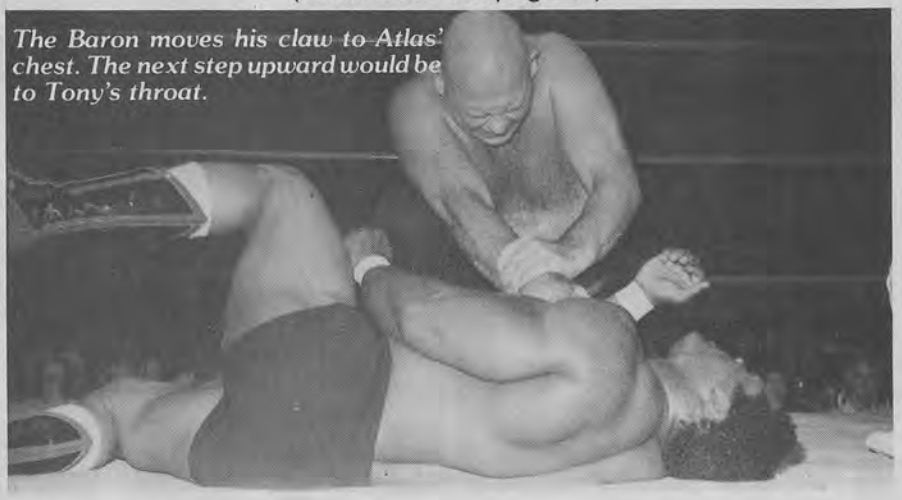
Signature (I am over 18 years of age)

Tony Atlas

(Continued from page 12)



The Baron moves his claw to Atlas' chest. The next step upward would be to Tony's throat.

feel, I should always talk to you guys 'cause you guys are really my voice to the fans, so I wanna get that out of the way."

Heads nodded in understanding. Atlas forced a grin and looked from face to face.

"I got a little better handle on my anger now, though that don't mean I don't still feel like killin' Von Raschke, 'cause I do. What he done and said to me deserves nothin' less than the death sentence.

"I really value human life. I hate to see anyone hurt, even if I'm not involved. I know this is a violent sport and injuries occur and there ain't much any of us can do. But we cannot try to purposely maim someone. And we don't have to hurt with words, either. That's why I want to pay Von Raschke back."

Again Atlas withdrew into inner turmoil. He scraped his naked feet against the scuffed linoleum,

Atlas has taken enough. He remembers his purpose is to destroy Von Raschke and goes about accomplishing his task.

Tony's muscles bulge as he tries to twist Von Raschke's arm off. Perhaps the Baron has more respect for Atlas now.

sighed, and seemed to gear himself for the words he had to say.

"Von Raschke said he does not want to wrestle inferior wrestlers," Atlas began haltingly, measuring each word, each vowel. "He said people like me and Mr. Wrestling II ain't fit to get into the same ring as him, and he ain't gonna treat us like human beings anymore.

"I asked him what he meant by that word inferior. He said it means a lot, like bein' a coward, bein' stupid, bein' without any talent. No one says that about me. I can take a lot, but I won't take that," Atlas grabbed the edges of the chair.

"I told him he had no right sayin' stuff like that and makin' remarks about a man's character, that the only thing matterin' to him should be what happens inside the ring. He laughed real mean-like and said it has everythin' to do with everythin', that he don't like wastin' his time on cowards, and inferior wrestlers bring him down and makes him look bad.

"I consider that a real bad insult. No one says stuff like that to me and stands upright. Von Raschke insultin' all us scientific wrestlers and he is gonna be stopped. I swear to that." □

IVAN KOLOFF

(Continued from page 26)

I hold on to my belt for so long."

What one must remember, however, is that when Koloff says "only try to win match," that means try to win match *at any cost*. Usually, the first casulty is any sense of order within the squared circle. The second casualty is often the unfortunate opponent of Koloff. The third casualty is never his Mid-Atlantic title.

Koloff battles Wahoo McDaniel in 1975. The two still battle today, but note how much trimmer Koloff has become.

"I am champion now, and I will be so for a long time," roars the mighty Russian. "I will defend my championship against any and all people who try to take it from me. Let them try and take it, and they know what strong defense means. They will face trouble. That is the way it should be. A championship is hard thing to hold, hard to keep . . . it should also be very hard to win."

With Ivan Koloff guarding the belt, there is no question that the Mid-Atlantic title is hard to win. More than one wrestler has been sent from a title challenge back to his dressing room to tend his wounds. It is likely that in the future, more will follow. □

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RATINGS ANALYSIS

This column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Ratings mailbag: Once again, "Ratings Analysis" presents a random sampling of reader comments and questions concerning our ratings system.

Randy Woodward, Little River, SC: "Your ratings are the most comprehensive and accurate of any I've ever seen, but each month you have 133 entries for single wrestlers and only the top 10 tag teams. If you would remove the photo from the ratings page, you'd have room for another 10 tag teams."

Tully Blanchard

Michael Christopher, Anaheim, CA: "**Tully Blanchard** in the top 10? You've got to be kidding me! What has Tully done to deserve that rating? In my opinion, Tully has ridden into the ratings on the coattails of **Wahoo McDaniel**. He's taken advantage of Wahoo's bitterness and has formed an alliance with him only to further his own career." *[Blanchard does not appear in the Top 10 in this issue—Ed.]*

Larry Nathanson, Plainview, NY: "I understand that you have decided to rate the WWF Intercontinental champion in the number one slot uner the WWF heavyweight champ. But how about those men who are challenging for each of those titles. Do you then rate **Hulk Hogan's** top challenger second, **Greg Valentine's** top challenger third, and so on until you fill the top ten places? Also, why did it take so long for your magazine to rate **Junkyard Dog**?" *[In the WWF, the top contenders are considered challengers for both the WWF heavyweight and WWF Intercontinental belts. So, our ratings committee ranks the remainder of the wrestlers based on their performance within the WWF for the last month. Furthermore, you will not see a new entrant in the WWF ranked immediately upon arrival. That is why Junkyard Dog has not been rated until this time, and it is also the reason we are not rating **Billy Jack** in this issue. Billy has not yet faced a sufficient amount of WWF competition to warrant a rating—Ed.]*

Florida title changes: There is a new state champion and new U.S. tag team champs in Florida. **Jesse Barr** defeated **Scott McGhee** at Orlando, Florida's Eddie Graham Sports Complex in a two-out-of-three fall no-disqualification bout to win the Florida State title.

Barr moves into the NWA ratings at the number 10 slot, and moves into the Florida ratings at number two under Southern champion **Pez Whatley**. McGhee drops a notch to number three, and is currently the number one contender for Barr's Florida belt.

Krusher Khrushchev

The new U.S. tag team champs are **Jim Neidhardt** and **Krusher Khrushchev**. They defeated **Hector Guerrero** and **Coco Samoa** (substituting for the injured **Chavo Guerrero**) during a taping of the *Championship Wrestling From Florida* program. By virtue of their victory, Khrushchev and Neidhardt move into the top 10 tag team ratings at number eight.

It took one match: On September 24 in London, Ontario, **Greg Valentine** defeated **Tito Santana** to win the WWF Intercontinental title, and by virtue of that one victory, Valentine put his name into two new ratings categories, and moved himself up in the WWF ratings.

Previously the number two-rated wrestler in the WWF, Valentine moved into the number one spot, pushing out Santana, who dropped to three. Valentine also moved into the Top 10 ratings at number nine. And, as soon as it became known that Valentine defeated the very popular Santana to win the title, a flood of anti-Valentine mail arrived at the offices of *Pro Wrestilng Illustrated,* encouraging our ratings committee to place the new champ in our Most Hated ratings at number nine.

And all it took was one match.

The address for mail: Questions? Complaints? We'd love to hear from you. Send your comments to "Ratings Analysis" c/o *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Annual;* Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571. □

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

T.V. SPORTS

Ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. These ratings are compiled by the editors and are universally recognized as official.

Andre the Giant

TOP10

1—RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

2—RICK MARTEL
236, Quebec City, Quebec

3—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX

4—HULK HOGAN
305, Venice Beach, CA

5—KERRY VON ERICH
251, Denton, TX

6—ANDRE THE GIANT
497, Grenoble, France

7—WAHOO McDANIEL
260, Midland, TX

8—MAGNUM T.A.
245, Chesapeake, VA

9—GREG VALENTINE
243, Seattle, WA

10—RICK STEAMBOAT
238, Honolulu, HI

TAG TEAMS

1—THE ROAD WARRIORS
AWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 567 pounds

2—IVAN KOLOFF & DON KERNODLE
NWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 485 pounds

3—STEVE KEIRN & STAN LANE
No. 1 contenders for AWA tag team title
Combined weight: 479 pounds

4—DICK MURDOCH & ADRIAN ADONIS
WWF tag team champions
Combined weight: 521 pounds

5—RICK MORTON & ROBERT GIBSON
Mid-South tag team champions
Combined weight: 453 pounds

6—DENNIS CONDREY & BOBBY EATON
Combined weight: 483 pounds
No. 1 contenders for Mid-South tag team title

7—RON BASS & BLACK BART
Mid-Atlantic tag team champions
Combined weight: 546 pounds

8—KRUSHER KHRUSHCHEV & JIM NEIDHARDT
U.S. tag team champions
Combined weight: 551 pounds

9—RIP ROGERS & TED OATES
National tag team champions
Combined weight: 473 pounds

10—RICK RUDE & KING KONG BUNDY
Mid-Southern tag team champions
Combined weight: 692 pounds

NWA and AWA ratings are compiled with the assistance of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters. "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices.

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

1—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX

2—WAHOO McDANIEL
260, Midland, TX

3—KERRY VON ERICH
251, Denton, TX

4—RONNIE GARVIN
231, Montreal, Quebec

5—HARLEY RACE
253, Kansas City, MO

6—PEZ WHATLEY
238, El Paso, TX

7—GINO HERNANDEZ
224, Houston, TX

8—COWBOY RON BASS
285, Pampa, TX

9—TULLY BLANCHARD
235, San Antonio, Texas

10—JESSE BARR
243, Portland, OR

AWA

World Champion:
RICK MARTEL
236, Quebec City, Quebec

1—NICK BOCKWINKEL
245, Beverly Hills, CA

2—MR. SAITO
247, Osaka, Japan

3—TONY ATLAS
247, Roanoke, VA

4—BRAD RHEINGANS
248, Appleton, MN

5—JIM BRUNZELL
225, Minneapolis, MN

6—BILLY ROBINSON
246, Manchester, England

7—JUMBO TSURUTA
240, Tokyo, Japan

8—CRUSHER BLACKWELL
474, Stone Mountain, GA

9—LARRY ZBYSZKO
240, Pittsburgh, PA

10—STEVE O
226, Edina, MN

MOST POPULAR

1—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX

2—HULK HOGAN
305, Venice Beach, CA

3—KERRY VON ERICH
251, Denton, TX

4—RICK MARTEL
236, Quebec City, Quebec

5—SGT. SLAUGHTER
310, Parris Island, SC

6—MAGNUM T.A.
245, Chesapeake, VA

7—ANDRE THE GIANT
497, Grenoble, France

8—BARRY WINDHAM
230, Sweetwater, TX

9—BILLY JACK
245, Portland, OR

10—RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

MOST HATED

1—CHRIS ADAMS
225, Stratford on Avon, England

2—WAHOO McDANIEL
260, Midland, TX

3—NIKOLAI VOLKOFF
345, Siberia, Russia

4—RODDY PIPER
231, Scotland

5—TULLY BLANCHARD
235, San Antonio, TX

6—KEVIN SULLIVAN
235, Boston, MA

7—EDDIE GILBERT
222, Lexington, KY

8—GINO HERNANDEZ
224, Houston, TX

9—GREG VALENTINE
243, Seattle, WA

10—RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

Below are the ratings for the top regional wrestling areas of the country. These ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters.

WWF

Champion:
HULK HOGAN
305, Venice Beach, CA

1—GREG VALENTINE
243, Seattle, WA
2—JOHN STUDD
364, Los Angeles, CA
3—TITO SANTANA
245, Mission, TX
4—RODDY PIPER
231, Scotland
5—SGT. SLAUGHTER
310, Parris Island, SC
6—KAMALA
360, Uganda
7—JUNKYARD DOG
260, New Orleans, LA
8—KEN PATERA
256, Portland, OR
9—JIMMY SNUKA
250, Fiji Islands
10—JESSE VENTURA
270, Muscle Beach, CA

GEORGIA

1—RONNIE GARVIN
231, Montreal, Quebec
2—BRAD ARMSTRONG
223, Marietta, GA
3—TOMMY RICH
248, Hendersonville, TN
4—BOB ARMSTRONG
242, Marietta, GA
5—TIM HORNER
235, Morristown, TN
6—JERRY OATES
247, Columbus, GA
7—OX BAKER
313, Waterloo, IA
8—PORKCHOP CASH
249, Chicago, IL
9—OLE ANDERSON
256, Minneapolis, MN
10—THE ITALIAN STALLION
240, Naples, Italy

WORLD CLASS

1—GINO HERNANDEZ
224, Houston, TX
2—KERRY VON ERICH
251, Denton, TX
3—CHRIS ADAMS
225, Stratford on Avon, England
4—KEVIN VON ERICH
239, Denton, TX
5—MIKE VON ERICH
220, Denton, TX
6—KILLER KHAN
312, Mongolia
7—JAKE ROBERTS
243, Baton Rouge, LA
8—ICEMAN PARSONS
242, St. Louis, MO
9—THE MISSING LINK
273, parts unknown
10—KELLY KINISKI
242, Vancouver, BC

MID-ATLANTIC

1—WAHOO McDANIEL
260, Midland, TX
2—RON BASS
285, Pampa, TX
3—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX
4—RICK STEAMBOAT
238, Honolulu, HI
5—TULLY BLANCHARD
235, San Antonio, TX
6—MIKE ROTUNDO
245, Syracuse, NY
7—MARK YOUNGBLOOD
230, Amarillo, TX
8—JIMMY VALIANT
251, New York, NY
9—NIKITA KOLOFF
275, Moscow, Russia
10—DON KERNODLE
237, Charlotte, North Carolina

FLORIDA

1—PEZ WHATLEY
238, El Paso, TX
2—JESSE BARR
243, Portland, OR
3—SCOTT McGHEE
220, Shipley, England
4—KEVIN SULLIVAN
235, Boston, MA
5—SUPERSTAR GRAHAM
260, Paradise Valley, AZ
6—DORY FUNK JR.
244, Amarillo, TX
7—MIKE GRAHAM
232, Tampa, FL
8—THE SAINT
242, Caracas, Venezuela
9—ANGELO MOSCA JR.
234, Caledou, Ontario
10—JAY YOUNGBLOOD
237, Amarillo, TX

MID-SOUTH

1—MAGNUM T.A.
245, Chesapeake, VA
2—TERRY TAYLOR
219, Vero Beach, FL
3—BUTCH REED
265, Kansas City, MO
4—STEVE WILLIAMS
295, Tulsa, OK
5—HACKSAW DUGGAN
280, New York, NY
6—TED DiBIASE
247, Omaha, NB
7—HERCULES HERNANDEZ
275, Tampa, FL
8—BRICKHOUSE BROWN
225, Winter Haven, FL
9—EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET
234, South Wales
10—SONNY KING
256, Detroit, MI

MID-SOUTHERN

1—EDDIE GILBERT
222, Lexington, TN
2—KING KONG BUNDY
446, Atlantic City, NJ
3—JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN
4—TOMMY RICH
248, Hendersonville, TN
5—RICK RUDE
246, Robinsdale, MN
6—RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL
7—LANNY POFFO
228, Sarasota, FL
8—MASAO ITO
247, Osaka, Japan
9—MID-SOUTHERN SPOILER
240, parts unknown
10—PHIL HICKERSON
230, Jackson, TN

NORTHWEST

1—RIP OLIVER
245, Tampa, FL
2—STAN STASIAK
268, Portland, OR
3—PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE
245, Minneapolis, MN
4—BRETT SAWYER
242, St. Petersburg, FL
5—MATT BORNE
240, Milwaukie, OR
6—TOM PRITCHARD
220, Houston, TX
7—KEVIN KELLY
265, Hollywood, CA
8—BOBBY JAGGERS
265, Dunlap, KS
9—MIKE MILLER
260, Memphis, TN
10—MR. EBONY
240, parts unknown

For period ended October 15, 1984

THE LAST WORD

Got a comment or point of view you want to share with other readers? Send your letters to:

LAST WORD
BOX 48
ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY 11571

Roddy Piper is probably the most controversial figure in wrestling today. Our pinup of "Rowdy Roddy" in the Winter 1984 issue drew mixed response from the fans.

PIPER PINUP YES . . .

I want to thank the staff of *Pro Wresting Illustrated Annual* for showing impartiality and fairness in its editorial judgment. The specific situation I am referring to is the choice of Roddy Piper as one of the pinups in the Winter 1984 issue.

Every time I go to one of Piper's matches, I'm forced to listen to the crowd boo him, call him names, and generally assassinate his character. What kills me is that they don't even bother to notice that he's a great wrestler. Half of these people don't even know that he's a former America's and United States champion.

So Piper says what's on his mind. Hey, if the WWF was opposed to that, they wouldn't have given Piper television time. Do you think Roddy pays for "Piper's Pit?" Heck, no! I think it's great that Roddy is secure enough with his own opinions to let us hear them. And I'll tell you this, I would rather listen to Roddy than listen to Hulk Hogan's stuttering Valley Boy talk any day of the week. He's wearing us out with this "Hulkamania" garbage.

Once again, thanks for the pinup of Piper, which I will gladly put in my scrapbook with my other wrestling memorabilia. And to all those anti-Piper fans, why don't you try thinking first the next time you start to boo the guy. Be smart enough to notice some real talent when you see it.

CAROL INY
Union, NJ

. . . AND PIPER PINUP NO

I usually enjoy the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Annual,* especially the pinups, but I was disgusted when I saw that the Winter 1984 edition had a pinup of that skirt-wearing loudmouth, Roddy Piper.

Piper is a lousy wrestler, which will be proven when Jimmy Snuka destroys him. He also insists on insulting fan favorites in "Piper's Pit," a so-called interview segment that he conducts on televised WWF wrestling every week.

I feel that the presence of Piper's ugly face spoiled what was otherwise a fine magazine.

STEPHEN CARUSO
Columbia, MD

ATLAS IS NO COWARD

I can't believe that anyone would call Tony "Mr. U.S.A." Atlas a coward ("Is Tony Atlas Afraid To Save America?" *PWI Annual,* Winter 1984). Even people like Ivan Koloff and Alexis Smirnoff had to realize that with his powerhouse body and his incredible skill, he couldn't possibly fear that anyone could hurt him.

Tony Atlas' powerful legs land against the chest of Baron Von Raschke. When the Baron made anti-American statements a few years ago, Atlas demanded a match against him.

If anything was true, it's that the Russians were scared that Atlas would beat them to within an inch of their lives, only holding back because he's such a nice guy.

Atlas has been wrestling here in the AWA for a few months now, and I couldn't be happier. I get to see him on TV almost every week, and in person at the arenas. What I like most is when Atlas presses his opponent over his head and slams him to the canvas so hard that the ring shakes. I know The Road Warriors do the same move, but it just seems to me that Atlas does it with a lot more ease.

I'd like to see Tony team up with Crusher Black-

well so the both of them can run Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie out of the AWA. There's one foreigner who better have the common sense to be afraid of Mr. U.S.A.

CECELIA HARRIS
Chicago

Tommy Rogers (left) and Bobby Fulton are mobbed by the fans as they make their way to the ring. Reader Donna Frederick rates The Fantastics as the best tag team she's ever seen.

FANTASTICS ARE FANTASTIC

Bobby Fulton and Tommy Rogers are The Fantastics, and they *really are* fantastic. I've seen a lot of tag teams like them here in Texas, like The Rock 'n' Roll Express, The Fabulous Ones, and even The Freebirds, but The Fantastics are the best I've ever seen.

I saw them wrestle The Midnight Express in Houston for the first time and I wasn't the only person in the crowd who thought they were great. The entire crowd was behind them. Both Tommy and Bobby are strong and fast. They give 100 percent in their matches, and that's a thing that the fans really appreciate.

I've heard now that they're going to be wrestling in the World Class area, so I'm going to be traveling to Dallas and San Antonio to watch them. I think they could take the World Class tag team belts really quick and hold on to them for a good long time. I'd like to see The Fantastics wrestle those two freaks The Missing Link and Killer Khan. Skandor Akbar thinks he has a good team there, but once Bobby and Tommy get finished with them, Akbar will really know the meaning of Devastation Inc.

Let's see some stories on The Fantastics so that the whole world can see how great they really are.

DONNA FREDERICK
Temple, TX

HOGAN'S PROBLEM

I read "Hulk Hogan At The Crossroads: Wrestling Or Hollywood?" (*PWI Annual,* Winter 1984) with a great deal of interest, as it is my belief that the "Hulkster" has to be able to commit himself 100 percent to professional wrestling if he ever wishes to be recognized among the legends of the sport like Bruno Sammartino, Verne Gagne, Harley Race, and Buddy Rogers.

Yes, Hogan has become a household name. He has, in fact, transcended the sport to become a celebrity, thanks to his appearance in the movie *Rocky III* and on MTV Music Television. I was in a restaurant the other night and heard two waitresses talking about Hogan. When did you ever hear two waitresses talking about Bob Backlund or Pedro Morales?

Hogan's problem, however, is that they're talking about his tremendous physique and his incredible

Hulk Hogan should make fewer appearances with stars like Brooke Shields and devote more time to his wrestling if he's ever going to be considered a great, writes Randi Hallison.

charisma, not his remarkable wrestling skill. If Hogan plans to be remembered alongside the greats, he's going to have to let up on his personal appearances and outside interests and work on improving his ring performance. Let's face it, folks, Hogan is champion almost completely by virtue of his size.

Hulk, you're a great showman, and you're exciting to watch, but you're not one of wrestling's immortals, and it's a shame, 'cause with a little work, you could be.

RANDI HALLISON
Northbrook, IL □

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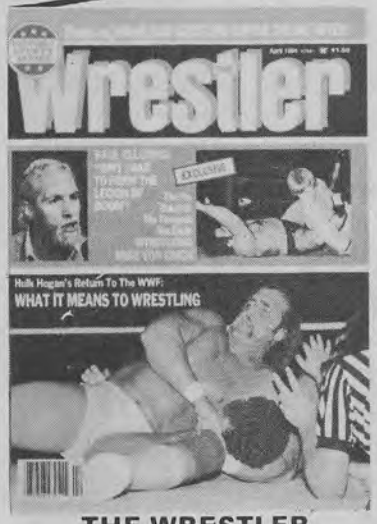

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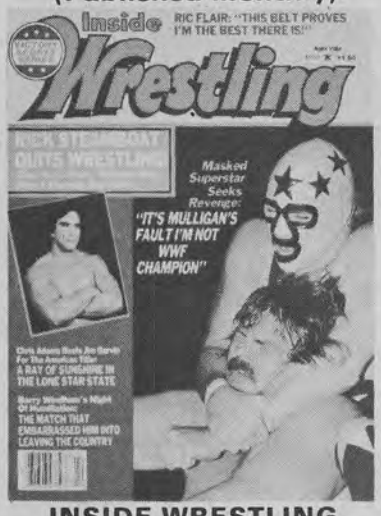
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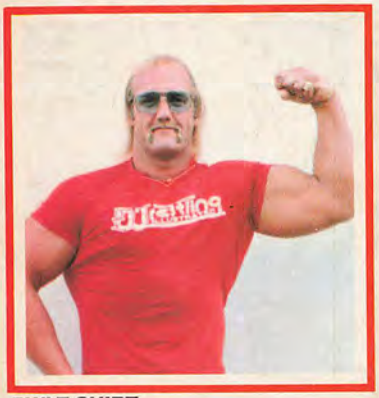

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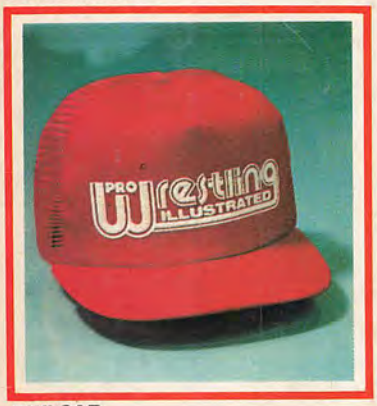

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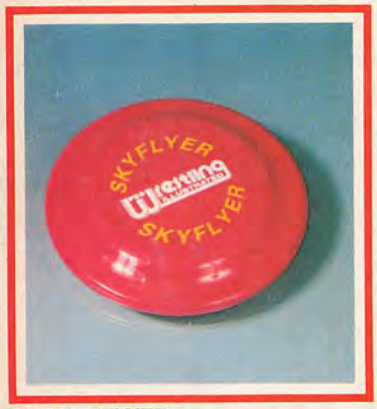

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